

Friday 24th November 2023

FRIDAY POST

Our School Value: Trust

*You, Lord, give true peace. You give peace to those who depend on you. You give peace to those who trust you.
Isiah 26.3*

Dear Families,

We have had a busy week in school; Christmas rehearsals are in full swing and we can't wait to begin our celebrations with you next week at our Light Switch On! Please remember to contact the office if you will not be able to accompany your child from 2.45pm. We will be singing carols together before switching on the lights and opening our festive stalls. Thank you to everyone who has donated chocolate to the tombola today!

On Wednesday we held our movie night to raise money for the PTA. Thanks must go to the school staff who generously gave their time to run this event. The children had a great time watching Ice Age which was the most voted for movie and enjoyed their popcorn too!

Today we have welcomed Jo Yendole into school from the Rising Brook Community Church foodbank. Jo came to thank everyone for their generous harvest donations and help the children to understand how those donations make a difference to the lives of so many people. She also told us about the Warm Space Rising Brook run; Owls and Foxes had been exploring Warm Spaces in their Picture News this week.



Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips

Learn to Love, love to learn

St Leonard's First School & Nursery





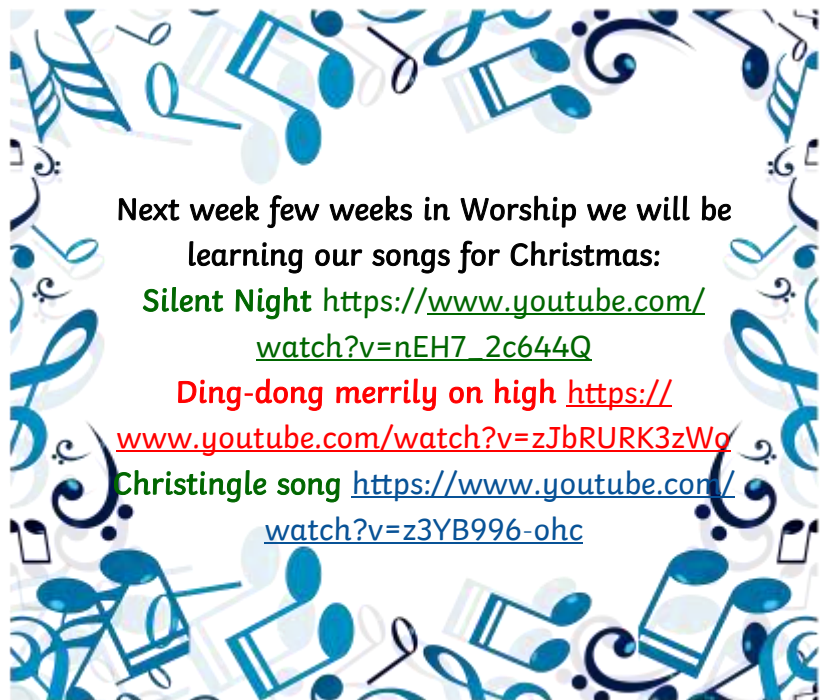
Reception 2024

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old between 1/09/2024 to 31/08/2025? If so you will be able to apply online for a place in our Reception class from Friday 1st November 2021 the closing date is 15th January 2024. Applications should be made directly at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

Please note children who currently attend our school nursery will still need to apply for a Reception place.

Christingles

Please can all children bring an orange, satsuma, or tangerine into school for **Thursday 30th November**. On Friday 1st December, we will be gathering in Leaf Teams ahead of our Christmas Light Switch-On to make our Christingles.



Next week few weeks in Worship we will be learning our songs for Christmas:

Silent Night https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEH7_2c644Q

Ding-dong merrily on high <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJbRURK3zWo>

Christingle song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3YB996-ohc>

Achievements from home



Football



Football



Gymnastics

If your child has recently received an award they would like to share with us, eg swimming, football, dance, Beavers, Brownies etc please send them into school & we will share them during our Celebration Worship on Friday.

Science



This week in science, Foxes have been creating circuits to try and light a light bulb.

They demonstrated great teamwork during this activity and were really excited when they were successful!



Weekly House Point Tally

Oak

194



Sycamore

111

Holly

168

Each week the team with the most tokens gains 3 leaves on their tree, 2nd gets 2 leaves and 3rd gets 1 leaf. At the end of the term the team with the most leaves will earn a reward.

stars of the week



Year 4 - Middle School Applications

Year 4 parents, please make sure you make your application for your next school of choice before 15th January 2024.



After School Clubs & After School Care invoices



All payments for after school clubs and after school care are now overdue, if you haven't already done so please make payment via your ParentPay account.

Raksha Bandhan

In RE, Owls have been learning about a range of religious festivals and how and why they are celebrated. This week we found out about the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan which celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters. On the day of the festival a sister ties a bracelet called a rakhi around her brother's wrist and the brother promises to look after and protect his sister in the coming year. We designed our own rakhi bracelets to give to the people we love.



CHRISTMAS

Traditional Christmas Turkey,
Pig in a Blanket & Festive Stuffing
or
Christmas Quorn Fillet &
Festive Stuffing (Ve)
with
Roast Potatoes
Carrot Batons & Peas
❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️
Christmas Biscuit or Ice-cream

edwards and ward
a recipe for success



Children can wear their party clothes on this day

Don't Forget



Don't forget to complete the Christmas dinner survey to order your child's Christmas lunch.

<https://forms.office.com/e/XhXQJhFbxv>

Lunchtime Menu - next week is week ONE

Please note we will **NOT** be offering a sandwich option during winter.

	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Mac & Cheese (V) or Mixed Bean Chilli with Rice (Ve)(Wg) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Rainbow Veg Scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream (V)	Pork or Chicken Sausages with Mash & Gravy or Veggie Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Rainbow Veg Scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream (V)	Pizza Mac & Cheese (V) or Mild Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry with Rice (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Rainbow Veg Scoop of Vanilla Ice Cream (V)
TUESDAY	Mild & Sweet Chicken Curry with Rice (Wg) or Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Sweetcorn & Peppers, Cauliflower Apple Crumble (Ve)(Wg) with Custard (V)	Chicken Paella (Wg) or Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Sweetcorn, Green Beans Apple & Pear Crumble (Ve)(Wg) with Custard (V)	Chicken Tandoori with Golden Rice (Wg) or Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Sweetcorn, Green Beans Peach & Pineapple Crumble (Ve)(Wg) with Custard (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Chickpea & Veggie Puff with Roasties (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Broccoli, Sliced Carrot Strawberry Jelly & Peaches (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Homemade Veggie & Stuffing Roll with Roasties & Gravy (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Cauliflower, Carrot Batons Orange Jelly & Mandarins (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Veggie Sausage Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Cabbage, Sliced Carrot Strawberry Jelly & Pineapple (Ve)
THURSDAY	Penne with Chicken Meatballs in Classic Tomato Sauce (Wg) or Penne with Tomato Super Sauce (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Green Beans, Swede Chocolate Mousse with Pears (V)	Penne with Beef Bolognese (Wg) or Penne with Classic Tomato Sauce (Ve)(Wg) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Cabbage, Garden Peas Banana Custard (V)	Chicken, Broccoli & Sweetcorn Pasta Bake (Wg) or Penne with Beany Bolognese (Ve)(Wg) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Swede, Shredded Carrots Chocolate Mousse with Mandarins (V)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Falafel Wrap with Mint Yoghurt & Chips (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Flapjack (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Vegetarian Marinara Sub with Chips (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Chocolate Shortbread (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Garden Vegetable Goujons with Chips (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Iced Shortbread (Ve)
	8/11/23, 15/11/23, 22/11/23, 29/11/23, 6/12/23, 13/12/23, 20/12/23, 27/12/23	13/11/23, 20/11/23, 27/11/23, 4/12/23, 11/12/23, 18/12/23, 25/12/23	20/11/23, 27/11/23, 4/12/23, 11/12/23, 18/12/23, 25/12/23

Freshly baked bread, fresh fruit, yoghurts and fresh drinking water available daily.

V - Vegetarian Ve - Vegan Wg - Wholegrain

DT - Christmas stockings

Foxes have started to sew Christmas stockings in their D&T sessions - watch this space for the end result!



Foxes have been locating Capital cities of Allied & Axis countries.



Sinbad the Sailor

A reminder that payment of £7 for this years panto, is now on ParentPay. Children can wear Christmas jumpers with their school trousers/skirts on this day.

Thank you

On your child's forest school day, please send them to school dressed in old clothing you do not mind getting dirty. Please also ensure they have wellies to change into, if they are not kept at school. Layers and waterproofs are advised because of the wet weather.





PTFA are in need of a Treasurer, do you have a little spare time to be able to help the PTFA by collecting any money raised from fundraising events and paying them in to the PTFA bank account? If so, please speak to

Leisha Hatton PTFA Chair or contact the office who will pass on your details. The PTFA are an important part of school life they raise funds to help school provide those 'little extras' that school funding doesn't cover. In the past the PTFA have subsidised school trips, played a huge part in our school library renovation, provided prizes for competitions, paid for new books in school the list is endless and without it the children will miss out on these nice things - please if you have a little time to spare consider helping out, it would be very much appreciated. **Help also needed at the Christmas lights switch on 1st November from 2:15pm onwards.** **Help also needed at the Christmas plays to serve refreshments.** Please let the office know if you can help at any of the upcoming events, thank you.

Attendance figures

School Attendance 13th - 17th November 2023

Hedgehogs 97%

Owls 95%

Foxes 92%

Whole School 93.9%

The National target for attendance, as set out in guidance from the DFE is **95%**



The children had a fabulous time at Film night on Wednesday, popcorn and squash plus leaving school in the dark was so much fun - plus the PTFA raised over £250.00 for their funds which is fantastic!





**FOREST
SCHOOL**

Y1 were making
natural picture
frames inspired by
Andy Goldsworthy.





Our PTFA will be arranging a Christmas tree to the children again this year. The tree will need to be filled with decorations to fill us with Christmas cheer so **we are asking all the children to create an eco decoration that can be put on the tree.**

Entries will be £2.00 each. Please note money will need to go directly to our PTFA by putting the money in an envelope with your child's name on the outside and placing it in the PTFA . Children and parents can enter and everyone can enter more than once. We are looking forward to seeing your creations. Please have your finished decoration in school by **Monday 27th November** - there are prizes to be won - 1 per class!



The PTFA are looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments at the Christmas light switch on, Friday 1st December at 2:30pm and also at the Christmas Nativities Wednesday 13th December at 1:30pm and Thursday 14th December at 9:15am - if you are able to help at any of these events please contact the school office. Thank you for your support.

Christmas shopping means more than just gifts
 Raise FREE donations for
St Leonards School Dunston PTFA

with  easyfundraising
 feel good shopping

THIS MEANS MORE

You **Shop**. 6,100 sites will **Donate** to us. For **Free**

Find us on easyfundraising.org.uk or get the App

GET IT ON  

Over £35 million raised  Over 2 million users

If you are doing your Christmas shopping on –line this year, don't forget to go through Easyfundraising and help us to raise funds with no cost to you!





The children have really enjoyed learning more about Diwali. They love the Rama and Sita Story and made a small world area in class to retell the story.

We also made some chapatti's and raita to eat. Mango Chutney was definitely a favourite thing to dip the chapatti's in. Nursery went for a sound walk into the woods and we all enjoyed kicking and throwing the leaves. In maths, we have been finding out about the properties of triangles and circles.



To develop our philosophical thinking we will be asking a BIG question each week! As a family take time to discuss the big question! Miss Phillips will listen to the children's thoughts on the question during Worship on Friday.

Our next BIG QUESTION

Can you think of nothing?

Can you have a friend you don't really like?

Alfie: "you don't have to like someone to be friendly"

Aliyah "No, if you're not friends you could fall out all the time"

Sophie: "Not to begin with, but you might grow to like them"

Thomas T "You don't have to because if they are mean they might hurt you"

Preston: "it comes down to different personalities"



Children in The Ark enjoy doing 'little jobs' for us they've been organising Christmas jumpers on our uniform rail - please help yourself to anything on the rail - and they have also been busy making Reindeer food to sell at our Christmas lights switch on.



DATES TO REMEMBER

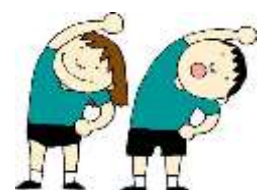
Friday 1st December	NO DODGEBALL CLUB
Friday 1st December	Christmas lights switch on - gates open 2:45pm
Wednesday 6th December	Whole school Christmas Panto - Sinbad the Sailor
Wednesday 13th December PM	Christmas play
Thursday 14th December AM	Christmas play
Thursday 21st December	Last day - school closes at 1:30pm
Friday 22nd December	Inset Day
Monday 8th January	Back to school
Friday 9th February	Inset Day
Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb	Half Term
Mon 25th Mar - Fri 5th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 6th May	Bank holiday school closed
Friday 24th May	Inset Day
Mon 27th - 31st May	Half Term
Friday 19th July	Last day of academic year
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day

PE Timetable Autumn 2023

Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school. Thank you for your co-operation

Thursday - Owls & Foxes

Friday - Hedgehogs & Foxes



Rising Brook Church's 2023 Christmas Show

The Lost Star



7TH - 9TH DECEMBER 2023

Thu 7th 7:30pm | Fri 8th 7:30pm | Sat 9th 2:30pm | Sat 9th 7:30pm

Rising Brook Community Church
Burton Square, Stafford, ST17 9LT



Book your tickets at risingbrook.org/loststar
£8.00 Adult | £5.50 Child (ages 2-16)
BSL interpretation available on Friday 8th Dec



Rising Brook Baptist Church, Burton Square, Stafford, ST17 9LT | risingbrook.org
Charity no. 1136190 | Company no. 7122684 | Email: church@risingbrook.org | Phone: 01785 214750

Children or parents are being asked to take part in a National Campaign 'The Big Ambition' please see below:

Parents can complete the survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/ . Further resources are available on our [website](#).

It is really important that the pupils at St Leonard's CofE First School have participated in The Big Ambition survey and had their say.

I want to ensure that the voices of the children in Staffordshire are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

Please share the survey and resources with teachers in your school and encourage them to use it in their lessons. Children can complete the survey in assemblies, form times, PSHE or in other lessons this term. The survey can also be done as homework and parents can assist children who cannot complete the survey themselves (children under 5 and children with Special Educational Needs). This is a great opportunity to teach children about politics and why it is important for them to use their voice!

Please do get in touch if you have any problems. My team is happy to support with the roll out in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel De Souza

Children's Commissioner for England

An event being promoted by Ellis, Esme & Lexie in class Foxes



FUNDRAISING

21ST WEST STAFFORD SCOUT GROUP

Everyone welcome!

Christmas Fayre

Saturday, December 9th - 11:00am - 5:00pm

THE CHURCH HALL, LOVELACE CLOSE, HIGHFIELDS ST17 9YB

Join in the Christmas fun with 21st West Stafford Scout Group!

There will be stalls, games and activities for all ages as well as a variety of food and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome, bring your friends and family and help to raise funds for the Group.

BUZZZZ WIRE GAME
PENNY DROP
FIND RUDOLF

HANDMADE GIFTS
(BY THE SQUARE, BEANIE, CIGLE KNOTS)

CAKE STALL
TOMBOLA

GRAND RAFFLE
BBQ HOOK A BAUBLE

LUCKY DIP
TREASURE HUNT

Plus much more...

Scouts 
21st West Stafford
Charity No: 525009



Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://". The "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online; they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious; providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Register*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday