

Friday 1st December 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,

What a wonderful day to begin advent and the countdown to Christmas!

Our light-switch on is always a calendar highlight and we love to gather together to celebrate as a school community. The songs are always a highlight, and the tree looks fabulous thanks to the creative decorations brought in from home! Thanks also to everyone who supported with running a stall and to Rising Brook Baptist Church who have donated 2 tickets to their Christmas show.

The addition of the Christingles this year has been a great way to remind the children of the Christmas story and why Christians believe Jesus came to earth. Staff and children enjoyed a morning making these in their leaf teams. We love to see the way children from all years work together and support one-another here at St. Leonard's.

Next week, we are looking forward to watching Sinbad the Sailor as a Christmas treat. Our post-box has also gone up in the main entrance for cards. Rehearsals are continuing for The Animals' Nativity and we will be releasing details of additional tickets next week. If you are yet to request yours, please speak to the office.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips

Learn to Love, love to learn

St Leonard's First School & Nursery





Our Christmas post box is now in the entrance hall. Please post your cards and they will be delivered to class.



Christmas Jumper Day

Children can add a festive jumper to their school trousers/skirts on Wednesday 6th December as they will be watching the panto Sinbad the sailor!



And the
Winners
are...

Mrs Ashwood (LAC) found judging the Christmas tree decorations a tough job, but after much thought chose the following winners:

Hedgehogs: Esther

Owls: Alfie

Foxes: Fran



We are so impressed with the children's Christmas decorations, they all enjoyed spending time in their teams and decorating our Christmas tree this morning.



Golden Table Award

Trixie Sophie Esme

Myla Tovah Bow

Awarded by our lunchtime supervisors



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.



Foxes have been testing different items in the classroom to find out if they are 'insulators or conductors'



Achievements from home



Swimming



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.



Weekly House Point Tally

Oak

96



Sycamore

76

Holly

61

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.

December After School Care invoices

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



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>

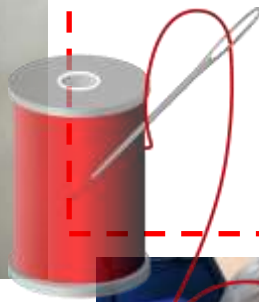
Lunchtime Menu - next week is week TWO

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)
	18/11/23, 27/11/23, 18/12/23, 26/12/23, 23/12/24, 19/12/24, 17/12/24	18/11/23, 27/11/23, 18/12/23, 26/12/23, 23/12/24, 19/12/24, 17/12/24	20/11/23, 29/11/23, 19/12/23, 17/12/24, 22/12/24, 12/12/24, 6/12/24, 25/12/24

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

V - Vegetarian Ve - Vegan Wg - Wholegrain



Class Owls have been practising their sewing skills in preparation for making some Christmas tree decorations next week. They have all managed to get the hang of a simple running stitch.



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.

Rec 05.12.2023

Nurs 12.12.2023



Christingles

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Year 1 were set the task of making an Andy Goldsworthy style frame from natural objects.



Attendance figures

School Attendance 27th - 1st December 2023

Hedgehogs 97%

Owls 99%

Foxes 97%

Whole School 97.6%

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



The PTFA are looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments 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.

Local Academy Council Updates:

We are very pleased to announce that both Lucy Haynes and Steph Wilkes have joined our LAC as parent governors. They were welcomed to the team at our Autumn Term meeting which was held this week. We are excited to work together to ensure the continued good work being done at St. Leonards.

We also welcomed a new co-opted governor to the team - Sean Cassidy - Sean lives locally and works for the National Governing Association. He is keen to support the wider school community through this role.

Please look out for members of our LAC at school events, we are working to raise their profile within the school community over the coming terms.

We have found out more about India and the roots of Hinduism. The children loved watching some children being carried across a river by an elephant and couldn't believe that a billion people lived there. We have shared some brilliant homework linked to this topic. The changing weather has given us great opportunities to explore the changing states of water when it gets cold. At the end of the week we started to look at advent and the start of the Nativity Story.



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

Which is more important, being right or being kind ?

Can you think of nothing?

Alfie: "If you're poorly you think of nothing, if you're well you do"

Harrison F "if you're in a black room and close your eyes you can think of nothing"

Jarrold "if you turn the light off you can get scared"

Fran "you're always thinking of something, even if it's the word"

Danny "when you are asleep you think of nothing"

Jenson "when you are in a dark room you think of darkness"



Owls have been making symmetrical patterns using Numicon



DATES TO REMEMBER

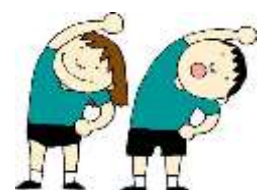
Wednesday 6th December	Whole school Christmas Panto - Sinbad the Sailor - wear your Christmas jumpers
Wednesday 13th December PM	Christmas play
Thursday 14th December AM	Christmas play
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas parties & lunch - wear your party clothes
Thursday 21st December	Last day - school 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



It is essential that you contact the school before 9.00am on the day that your child will be absent due to illness. Please leave a message or send an email for each day of absence relating to the illness. Thank you

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrc0.de/minfec>.

The most Wonder Filled Time of the Year

The story of fear and joy, journey and rest, struggle and gifts... the story of Christmas. For hundreds of years all around the world this story has been retold through small children to grand performances. The story has been told in many different, but remains the same. A tale of the ordinary becoming the extraordinary, lives changed - a story of hope.

Over the past two years our lives have changed, we've faced fears and we have found joys. We have been through struggles but maybe we've discovered new friendships with neighbours, appreciated the kindness of strangers or taken time to pause.



One of the things many of us have found is the appreciation for small things, noticing what is happening, growing or simply being. For Muddy Church this is one of our passions - slowing down, taking time to get outside, connecting with nature and each other and wondering at the world around us.

The great thing is that getting outside and visiting the places and spaces nearby doesn't have to cost a lot of money. It could be a quick walk to the local park or a weekend wander to somewhere new. Take whatever time you have and enjoy remembering something that has been with us for hundreds of years - the story of Jesus!

The Journey



The story began with a journey. Why don't you challenge yourselves to walk together each day of Advent? It may be a five-minute wander around the block, taking the dog for a walk or walking to school instead of driving. This gives you a healthy activity and precious time together.

If you can't manage every day how about a weekend wander through Advent?

Star of Wonder



The Bible talks about the heavens and the stars displaying God's glory. There is something true about the wonder that can come through watching stars on a clear night. You could think about what things are guiding you or what are you following - are these good and reliable?

Finding Shelter



I love how the kindness of strangers is demonstrated in the story, especially as the inn keeper provided Mary and Joseph with shelter. It doesn't matter whether it was an inn, cave, stable or house, what matters was providing the space when everywhere was so busy.

You could think about refugees and asylum seekers, those who are homeless or people who may need safe shelter, not only at Christmas but throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to put a sheet over a table or build a den and sit inside, talking about how you can care for others.

Gifts

The Christmas story demonstrates gift giving as the wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. We also read in John 3:16 how God loved the world so much that he gave his son Jesus as a gift to us. We can take this season to think about our gift to future generations - by choosing ethical gifts, wrapping paper and cards and thinking about our waste and how we recycle.

You could provide gifts of kindness for neighbours, such as an encouraging note through their door, or make a simple bird feeder or bug shelter as a gift to nature..

It's also good to take time to think about the present of presence - giving time and focus to each other and celebrating this season with love and peace.



The most Wonder Filled Time of the Year



Find a pine cone.

Spot a robin.

Find a tree that still has leaves on it.

Add a flower, leaf or other item to a small container of water. Freeze it to make an ice suncatcher.

Have a winter picnic.

Make a snowstorm in a bottle. Add biodegradable glitter to water in a bottle (you can also add food colouring).

Find a feather.

Find a winter flower.

Build a snowman.

Go puddle jumping.

Make a painted handprint so you can see how much you have grown next year.

Make a maze from sticks.

Find an acorn.

Carefully toast a marshmallow (over a candle or fire).

Find a frozen puddle.

Light a candle and watch the flame dance.

Make paper snowflakes. Fold and cut a piece of paper to create a snowflake pattern (you can find instructions online).

Go for a torchlight wander.

Put some mud into a pot and mix it with water if needed. Use this to paint a mud picture, you could even make a paintbrush from twigs and pine needles.

Make a card to say thank you to someone

Find an animal print.

Collect some items from a wander, bring them home and use them to create a story.

Go for a night-time walk to see the Christmas lights.

Drink a hot chocolate outside.

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

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

