

Friday 22nd March 2024

FRIDAY POST

Our School Value: Forgiveness

"Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ". Ephesians 4:32

Dear Families,

The Easter holidays are upon us! Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Easter service this morning; Foxes did a wonderful job of leading us and as always the singing from all our children was excellent! We enjoyed celebrating our champions of forgiveness this morning too - well done to all who were awarded a certificate. We love seeing our school values in action day in day out across the school.



We have loved welcoming parents into school this week for Parents' Evening, again thank you to everyone who joined us. We love celebrating your children's learning. Please remember, that staff are always happy to chat if you have any questions about what is going on in school. You can also find lots of information on current learning under the 'curriculum' tab on our website.

Children came home yesterday with sponsorship forms for Chuckle Productions - this is not compulsory - we wanted to give all pupils chance to do something outside of school to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. We are excited to share stories of the challenges taken on, and will be inviting Chuckle Productions back into school to share how our fundraising has impacted them.

However you spend the holidays, we all wish you a restful break and look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term.

Miss Phillips

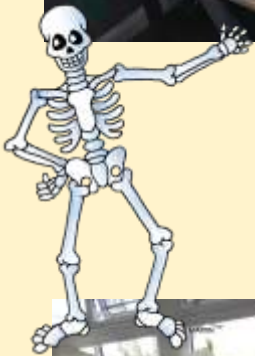
Learn to Love, love to learn

St Leonard's First School & Nursery





We have worked in pairs to find the different rivers across the United Kingdom



We have been naming bones in in the human skeleton





Champions of Forgiveness



“What a wonderful church service - the meaning of Easter through poetry”

Mr D Woodward



David is a member of our Local Academy council who is responsible for Health & Safety and Christian Distinctiveness.



Helen Ashwood

Helen is a member of our Local Academy council, she is a Foundation Governor who is responsible for Safeguarding, Student behaviour, attendance & safety and Equality.

Hedgehogs have been writing prayers using Teaspoon Prayers - maybe you could have a go at home!

Thank you Jesus for your time on earth and the new life you bring to us,

Sorry for the mistakes we make in our lives,

Please help us to be more like you and show forgiveness to other for their mistakes.

Amen



Nursery - September 2024



We are now taking names for children wishing to start at our school nursery in

September 2024. Places are limited so please could you drop in / contact the office for a form so we can add your child's name to our list no later than Monday 8th April - places will be allocated w/c 15th April 2024. If you are already in our nursery and wish to change or increase sessions for September then please email the office with your request.

BOOK REVIEWS

Don't forget to keep your book reviews coming! Blank review sheets are available in The Reading Tree which is open every Friday at 3:10pm

Attendance figures

School Attendance 18th March - 22nd March 2024

Hedgehogs 99%

Owls 99%

Foxes 90%

Whole School 95.3%

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

Please note fixed penalty notice referrals will be made to the Local Authority for term time holidays.



Amazon Book Wish Lists

Are you able to help us to acquire new books for our children?

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum here at St. Leonard's. We encourage children to read for pleasure and incorporate reading into every subject at every opportunity. Following a recent overhaul of our curriculum, staff are now desperate for a range of books which link to the learning which goes on in school over our new curriculum's 2-year cycle.

Each teacher has reviewed their wish list of books on Amazon and we are hoping to gradually accumulate them. If you would like to donate a book from your child's class list, we would be extremely grateful. Some children bring sweets to share with their classmates when it is their birthday – how about donating a book instead? A book really is a gift which keeps on giving and will give pleasure to many children (and their teachers!) for years to come.

If you choose to donate a book from the list to your child's class, the book will be presented to the whole school during assembly and will have a sticker placed on the inside cover stating the name of the child who kindly donated it. Please do check if Amazon sell any second hand copies of the books, as these can be picked up quite cheaply and we will be more than happy to receive them.

The books on each wish list have been prioritised and are labelled either high, medium or low priority. The high priority titles will match the topics being taught straight after Christmas.

Foxes

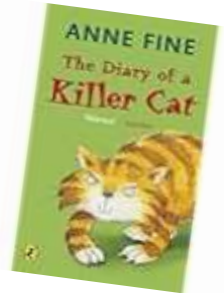
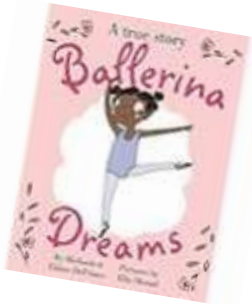
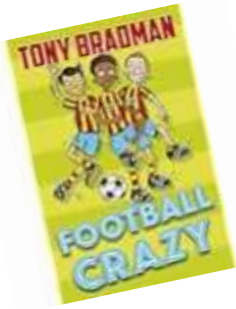
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1QSQNM3YGS06H?ref_=wl_share

Owls

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/36FQL4RYEKU3S?ref_=wl_share

Hedgehogs

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/16ZCE13CMXH2T?ref_=wl_share



School Meal Price Increase

Edwards & Ward, our catering service, have announced an increase in the cost of a meal. After Easter children in **Nursery, Year 3 and Year 4** will be charged £2.95 for a school dinner, an increase of 4%.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is in Reception or above you might be eligible for free school meals. Please visit Staffordshire County Council's online checking tool where, if eligible, you can apply today. Here is the link: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

Lunchtime Menu - next week is week TWO

The children get asked each morning what they would like to eat at lunchtime.

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

	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Penne with Vegetables in Tomato Sauce (Ve)(WG) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Green Beans, Sweetcorn St Clement's Shortbread (Ve) Better Health logo	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Veggie Beany Chilli with Rice (Ve)(WG) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Green Beans, Sweetcorn Lime Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Penne with Veggie Bolognese (Ve)(WG) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Sweetcorn, Green Beans Vanilla Iced Shortbread (Ve)
TUESDAY	Penne with Beef Bolognese (WG) Veggie Cottage Pie (Ve) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Broccoli, Garden Peas Apple Crumble (Ve)(WG) with Custard (V)	Cottage Pie Veggie Chow Mein (Ve) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Broccoli, Garden Peas Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Chocolate Custard (V)	Pork or Chicken Sausages with Mash & Gravy Veggie Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Sliced Carrots, Garden Peas Toffee Apple Sponge with Apple Custard (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy Homemade Veggie & Stuffing Roll with Roasties & Gravy (Ve) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Cauliflower, Sliced Carrots Chocolate Mousse with Pears (V)	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Yorkshire & Gravy Roasted Butternut Squash with Roasties, Yorkshire & Gravy (V) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Cauliflower, Sliced Carrots Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy Quorn Fillet with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy (Ve) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Cabbage, Carrot Batons Chocolate Mousse with Mandarins (V)
THURSDAY	Mild & Sweet Chicken Curry with Rice (WG) Mac & Cheese (V) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Rainbow Veg Banana Bread (V)	Breakfast for Lunch with Diced Potatoes Veggie Breakfast for Lunch with Diced Potatoes (V) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Cooked Tomato Flapjack (Ve)	Chicken with Golden Vegetable Rice (WG) Mac & Cheese (V) Choice of Jackets, [redacted] or Tomato Pasta Rainbow Veg Jammy Dodger Flapjack (Ve)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Quorn Hotdog with Chips (V) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Peaches (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Garden Vegetable Goujons with Chips (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Banana (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Quorn Dippers with Chips (Ve) Choice of Jackets, Sandwiches or Tomato Pasta Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Fruit Cocktail (V)
	15/01, 22/01, 19/02, 11/03, 01/04, 22/04, 13/05, 05/06, 24/06, 15/07	16/01, 05/02, 26/02, 16/03, 06/04, 29/04, 20/05, 10/06, 01/07, 22/07	22/01, 12/02, 04/03, 25/03, 16/04, 06/05, 27/05, 17/06, 08/07

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

V - Vegetarian, Ve - Vegan, WG - Wholegrain



NO NUTS!

Please note do not send children to school with any items containing nuts due to children who have allergies. Thank you

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

Our next BIG QUESTION

What does it mean to have hope?

Easter church service



"I would just like to pass on, regarding today's Easter service. I must say this was one of the most beautiful services I've been able to attend. I'm not often lucky enough to come because of my work, however, when I do, every time always feels so special for all the parents, and it really goes to show how hard the team at St. Leonards really do work for and with our children. I am so grateful for my child to have attended here for their early school life where you all help to encourage their beliefs and promote kindness and joy for all the children. A huge thank you from us as a family."



We finished off our dinosaur topic with some great homework presentations in Show and Tell. Due to the great weather we explored further outside during choosing time and spent more time in the woods learning through play and exploring. The children have continued to enhance their maths knowledge and skills through learning about tall and short. In the run up to Easter Week, we thought about what we do at Easter and the meaning behind eggs, chicks and the Easter Bunny. Hedgehogs have a good understanding of what Easter actually means and how it links to our value of forgiveness. Because of this, the Easter Bunny sent the children a message and hid some treats for them to find.





www.staffordsport.co.uk



Easter Holiday Sports Clubs

At Blessed William Howard Catholic School



Monday 25th March - Thursday 28th March
Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 5th April



8.30am- 5.30pm - £20 per day
10am-4pm - £17 per day



Staff are NGB qualified, DBS Checked and First Aid Trained.
Staff employed by the Stafford Sports and Performance Academy

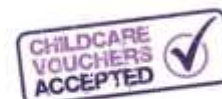


The days will be filled with sporting fun including football, rounders, gymnastics, dance, cricket, badminton, table tennis and MORE. Sessions are perfect for boys and girls.

IDEAL FOR AGES 5-13

facebook

www.facebook.com/staffordsport



To book a place please call or email:
07793891029 holidayclubs@staffordsport.co.uk



www.staffordsport.co.uk



FREE Easter Holiday Sports*



Monday 25th March- Thursday 28th March 10am-4pm
Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 5th April 10am-4pm

At Blessed William Howard Catholic High School Stafford

Staff are NGB qualified, DBS Checked and First Aid Trained.
Staff employed by the Stafford Sports and Performance Academy

The days will be filled with sporting fun including football, rounders, dance, cricket, badminton, table tennis and MORE. Sessions are perfect for boys and girls.

FREE HOT MEAL INCLUDED

IDEAL FOR AGES 5-13

Twitter: @staffordsport

facebook

www.facebook.com/staffordsport

For information please call 07793891029 or email holidayclubs@staffordsport.co.uk
To Book: <https://www.staffordsport.co.uk/holiday-clubs-booking>

*Free spaces available to children on
FREE SCHOOL MEALS Programme



Department
for Education

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 25th Mar - Fri 5th April	Easter Holiday
Thursday 25th April	Foxes Laches Wood Parent meeting @ 3.10pm
Monday 6th May	Bank holiday school closed
Friday 10th May	Academy Photography - Class photos & Leavers
Wednesday 15th - 17th May	Foxes - Laches Wood Residential - <i>more info to follow</i>
Thursday 23rd May	Church service
Friday 24th May	Inset Day
Mon 27th - 31st May	Half Term
W/C Monday 3rd June	Y4 multiplication checks
Friday 21st June	Sports Day - afternoon
Friday 19th July	Last day of academic year
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day



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., or sunhats should the wear be on our side!

9/04/2024 Reception

16/04/2024 Year 1

23/04/2024 Year 2

30/04/2024 Year 3

7/05/2024 Year 4

14/05/2024 Nursery

Laches Wood

A reminder to parents in years 3 & 4 that payment for their over night residential visit to Laches Wood is now due, payment is via your ParentPay account. Staggered payments can be made.



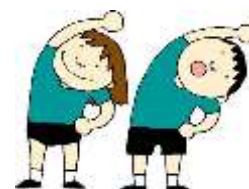
PE Timetable February 2024

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

Thursday - Owls & Foxes

Friday - Hedgehogs & Owls

Friday - Foxes will be swimming



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "how are you feeling today?", "what was the best and worst part of your day?", "if you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Koah or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College

Free training to help keep children safe

It's up to all of us to keep children safe. That's why we're encouraging every adult in the UK to take our 10-minute digital training.

Our **Listen up, Speak up** training will show some signs a child might be at risk, and what you can do to help.

Sign up to our 10-minute digital training:
nspcc.org.uk/speakup

