

Friday Post

Friday 29th November 2024

Our School Value: Trust

Key verse: 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,

Today is one of my favourites in our school calendar! Gathering around the tree, seeing it decorated by the children, singing carols, lighting Christingles, turning on the lights and enjoying festive stalls!

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and a particular thank you to the PTFA for such wonderful stalls. This has taken huge effort and the money raised will make a significant difference to what we can offer the children - watch this space!

Thank you also to the local businesses who have supported us - FXT Gym, Southan Antiques, Lower Drayton Farm, Little Art Co. and the Community Forest Maths games. It has been great to make links with our neighbours, and we are hopeful to build these further over the coming year.

This week also included a fantastic trip for Foxes to the Ancient High House - I spent Wednesday morning with them, and their knowledge and enthusiasm following the trip was infectious! Next week, we look forward to welcoming Alison from the YouthNet into school who will be running Christmas workshops for each class, and we have our panto happening on Thursday morning!

Christmas can bring lots of change in routines and for some children is particularly overwhelming - we are mindful of this. Please let your child's class teacher know if your child is finding the changes difficult, this helps us prepare them and look for solutions to help them manage and enjoy this time of year.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips



Headteacher: Miss C Phillips,
St Leonard's First School & Nursery,
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG
Tel: 01785 712488
E-mail: office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk



This term in worship we are learning our
Christmas songs:

Sing Christingle - [Sing Christingle](#)

It was on a starry night - [It was on a Starry Night](#)

Jingle Bells - [Jingle Bells with Lyrics](#) | [Christmas Songs HD](#) | [Christmas Songs and Carols](#)

Click the links to hear the music



Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1... Count the weeks
til Jesus comes.

Each week we add another light.
Our hope for Jesus growing bright.
We pray, we share, we do our part...
to welcome Jesus to our heart!



Pupil Voice

Some pupils met with Mr Atkins this week to discuss how they feel about their phonics lessons in school.

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards and we will donate ££s to schools.

CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS



HERE'S HOW

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app & sign up today
- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
- 3 Shop, scan and we donate

Not long left to support us with no cost to yourselves!!!

Do you shop at ASDA? If so we need you to help us raise funds at no cost to you!! **Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024**, every time customers shop with Asda using their Rewards app, they can choose a primary school to receive a percentage of their spend. And that's not all — every time a customer chooses St Leonard's, Asda donate £1 to our school's Cashpot

All you need to do is to follow the steps below and choose our school (use our postcode **ST18 9AG**) on their App. As this doesn't apply to high schools please pass our school name on to any friends and family. - **We have currently already raised £189.33 Thank you!!**

Making our Christingles

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.



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 a 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.





Foxes trip to the Ancient High House,
Stafford





Volunteers Needed!

PTFA Film Night

Friday 13th December 2024



Christmas Jumpers

5th December

Children can wear a Christmas jumper with their usual school trousers/skirts on Thursday 5th December as they will be watching the pantomime 'Snow White'.

A payment of £7.00 is now due on ParentPay.



We are looking for some willing helpers to lend a hand at the Children's film night. If you can help supervise the children and hand out snacks then please let Stacey or Laura know, alternatively email the office who will pass on your details.

Christmas Post

St Leonard's post is now up and running! If children post their cards into the post box in the entrance hall they will be delivered to their friends! Please make sure the child's name & class is on the envelope.



Last post will be Thursday 19th December 2024.

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!

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

with  easyfundraising
feel good shopping

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

Find us on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) or get the App

GET IT ON  

 Over £35 million raised  Over 2 million users





Use your child's home learning tasks below to support their learning outside of school. Tasks should be brought in throughout the half-term to be shared and celebrated in class.

Thank you!

HEDGEHOGS: We are looking how the world changes when you visit different parts of it.

Art: Linked to hot countries in the first 2 weeks. This could be to do with the African Savannah or Amazon Rainforest. Animals may include lions, zebra, elephant, hippos and rhinoceros. Snakes, chameleons, jaguars and parrots. In the 3rd and 4th week art could be linked to the Arctic and Antarctica.

Understanding of the World: Children can find out what countries are really hot and really cold countries. Where the North and South Poles are. What do people look like who live in these places.

Understanding of the World: Find out about the weather and how our weather changes and how the weather is different in other countries in places like Africa or Antarctica. How does this make people's lives different?

Maths: Recognising all of the numbers up to 5, writing them correctly and linking them to correct amounts. Can the children find ways of grouping amounts in different ways?

English: Recognising graphemes and phonemes in different animals they find out about. Practise name

OWLS

Art: Linked to our Gunpowder Plot topic, can you create a firework display picture using paint and toilet roll tubes? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAa9drkEX4g>

History/Computing: Log into Purple Mash, (see login details in back of reading diary) go to 2Do folder and complete the following two tasks: Guy Fawkes Quiz/Fireworks art activity

Design Technology: Design and make a Christmas card which has a simple moving part using a slider or a paper fastener, e.g a santa popping out of a chimney, a star moving across the sky above the stable.

Science: Draw and write about your favourite wild animal. Include the following information

What type of animal is it? - mammal, reptile, amphibian etc

What does it eat? - Is it a carnivore, herbivore, omnivore?

Describe its habitat

Maths: Numbots - little and often is best

FOXES

This half term in History, we will be stepping back in time to 1485, focussing on the Tudors. We will be looking at what life was like for a Tudor living all of those years ago, being a child during Tudor times and where Tudors lived, just to name a few!

- You could use recycled materials that you find around the home e.g. a cereal box to create a Tudor house.
- You may want to use pencil crayons, paints, materials to create a collage!
- You might want to create a menu, researching foods that may have been eaten during the Tudor times (maybe try some of these too...yum!)



All children should be heard reading their school book a minimum of 4 times a week. Re-reading a book helps develop fluency and comprehension.

Books will be changed on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**.





OWLS



In DT Owls have been exploring a range of mechanisms to make moving pictures. This week we linked our work to our History topic on 'The Gunpowder Plot' and used a wheel mechanism to making a moving firework display.



Attendance figures

School Attendance 25th - 29th November 2024

Hedgehogs 97%

Owls 96%

Foxes 95%

Whole School 96%

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.



Help us to fill our display!

Every year, we fill our entrance hall display with photos of the children! This year we are asking you to send in photos of them reading in their favourite place. This could be at home, up a tree, in the library, on a beach or somewhere that will completely surprise us all! Photos can be emailed into the office, or hard copies can be sent in.

Year 4 Middle School Applications



Applications for Middle school will open from **Friday 1st November**. All Year 4 parents **MUST** apply for the next school of their choice. https://ems.staffordshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en?_gl=1*1x3jc6v*_ga*NzA1OTE3MzQ1LjE3Mjg1NDcwNzU.*_ga_L5SP43WS7L*MTczMjI3OTE1Mi42My4xLjE3MzIyNzkxODkuMC4wLjA

Closing date for making an application is: 15th January

Weekly House Point Tally

Oak



177

Holly

106

Sycamore

71

stars of the week



Achievements from home



Angling

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

Mr H's PE Stars

Elsie
William
Jovie
Maddox
Lilly
Miles

Well done!





Well done - special recognition from the lunchtime staff!

Contact Details

Don't forget if you have moved, changed your mobile phone number or email address over the summer to let the office know. It is important we can get in touch with you should your child become unwell.

Call us on 01785 712488 with any changes or email: office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk



Drinks Bottles

Please make sure your child has a drinks bottle at school every day. It is important that they are clearly marked with the child's name and that they can easily identify them so that they don't drink from the wrong bottle. As part of the schools healthy eating policy, bottles should only contain water.



Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19th December 2024

Miss Tina will be serving a special Christmas lunch on Thursday 19th December (there will be no other option this day) and instead of the roast dinner on Wednesday 18th December it will be Mac & Cheese, Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta.

To enable Miss Tina to order enough food please would you complete the slip sent to you and return it to the office by no later than Friday 6th December.

Payment will be via your ParentPay account as normal for those in Nursery and years 3 and 4 at the usual cost of £2.95, unless you are in receipt of Free School Meals. Children in Reception and years 1 and 2 are entitled to Universal Free School meals and therefore there will be no charge.

Please make sure we receive your order by Friday 6th December. Thank you

CHRISTMAS

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TURKEY
with all the trimmings
PIGS IN BLANKETS
YORKSHIRE PUDDING
with
ROAST POTATOES
CARROT BATONS & PEAS

CHRISTMAS COOKIE (Ve)

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2024

edwards and ward
a recipe for success



HEDGEHOGS



We have been reading *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers this week. It has helped us understand about how climates change around the world and the coldest places are the North Pole and the South Pole.

We have been drawing and painting penguins, making snow print patterns and using directional language to help the lost penguin from the story. In PE we have been very creative with our dance moves, working with partners to mirror dance. Nursery have been working hard trying to make 3 with different objects and movements. Reception have been thinking about shapes with 4 sides and the properties that make squares and rectangles.





Year 1 Forest School



PE Days

Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school on the relevant days.

Hedgehogs - Fridays Owls - Thursdays & Fridays Foxes - Thursdays & Fridays

Please tie long hair back and children who wear earrings **MUST** remove them in advance of school if they can not remove them, themselves.



If your child has a school lunch it is important to keep your ParentPay account topped up with funds. For children in our Nursery,

Year 3 and Year 4 there is a cost of £2.95 per day or £14.75 per week.



WC 2nd December - Week TWO



	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Vanilla Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Chocolate Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Sultana Shortbread (Ve)
TUESDAY	Pork or Veggie (Ve) Sausages with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Apple Sponge (V)	Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Carrot Cake (V)	Chicken Meatballs with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Pineapple Upside Down Cake (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Jelly (Ve)
THURSDAY	Penne with Beef Bolognese Veg of the Day Sultana Flapjack (Ve)	Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Apple Flapjack (Ve)	Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream with Banana (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream with Banana (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream with Banana (V)
	21/10/24, 23/10/24, 14/11/24, 4/12/24, 25/11/24, 16/12/24, 6/1/25, 27/1/25	9/10/24, 30/10/24, 21/11/24, 11/12/24, 2/12/24, 23/12/24, 13/1/25, 3/2/25	16/10/24, 7/11/24, 28/11/24, 18/12/24, 9/1/25, 30/12/24, 20/1/25, 10/2/25

Choice of **Classic Tomato Pasta** or **Filled Jacket Potatoes** also available daily along with freshly baked bread, salad, fresh fruit, yoghurt, jelly and fresh drinking water.



No nuts please

Please note due to children in school with allergies please do not send any products containing nuts into school for break or lunch times. Thank you for your co-operation.

Golden Table Award

Summer

Ruby

Pippa

Ted

Freddie T

Harry

Awarded by our Lunchtime Supervisors



CURRENT NURSERY PARENTS - Reception 2025

If your child's fifth birthday is between 1st September 2025 & 31st August 2026 then you will need to apply online for a place in our Reception class from **Friday 1st November 2024** the closing date is 15th January 2025. Applications should be made directly at https://ems.staffordshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en?_gl=1*1x3jc6v*_ga*NzA1OTE3MzQ1LjE3Mjg1NDcwNzU.*_ga_L5SP43WS7L*MTczMjI3OTE1Mi42My4xLjE3MzIyNzkuODkuMC4wLjA.

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

If you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place, then please ask them to give the office a call and book an appointment to look around our school with Miss Phillips.



Our Safeguarding Team

Miss Phillips is our Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Laing is our Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Should you hear or see something that concerns you, please contact the office to speak to either of them.



Please search for
St Leonards First School
& Nursery

Don't forget to keep
up to date by
following us on ..



Our School website

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/>



A huge thank you to everyone who made an Eco themed decoration for our Christmas tree this year. Miss Tyler, our student teacher, had the difficult task of choosing three winners, congratulations go to:

CeCe in Hedgehogs Adina in Owls Freddie A in Foxes



Thanks to your support this activity has raised £82.00 for PTFA funds!

dates to Remember

Thursday 5th December	Pantomime - Children can wear Christmas jumper with normal school trousers/skirt
Tuesday 17th December PM	Christmas Play
Wednesday 18th December AM	Christmas Play
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20th December	Wear Christmas Jumpers - School closes at 1.30pm
Monday 23rd December Friday 3rd January 2025	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January	Back to school
Friday 31st January	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Monday 17th February Friday 21st February	Half term holidays
Friday 11th April	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Monday 14th April Friday 25th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 5th May	May Day Bank holiday - School closed



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 - as it has now turned so cold hats, scarves & gloves are also recommended.**

04/12/2024
Reception

11/12/2024
Nursery

Copy of a letter sent home today

**The Bossy Christmas Fairy
Whole School Production
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December 2024**

Dear Families

The whole school nativity performance will be held on Tuesday 17th December at 2pm and Wednesday 18th December at 9:30am. Both performances will be in the village hall. The children have been rehearsing very hard already and are excited for you to see their nativity.

Due to capacity we are asking you to book your seats in advance. There will be two seats per family across both performances eg you could have 1 seat at each show or 2 seats at one of the shows. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 a seat. This helps to cover the cost of the village hall. Children under the age of 3 will not require a seat as they will be expected to sit on a parents' knee.

Please note: there are no actual tickets, admission to performances will be via you returning the slip below and we will have a register. This is to ensure we maintain fair access and fire safety requirements.

So we can monitor numbers please complete the slip below and return by Friday 6th December and payment will be added on to ParentPay.

Kind regards
Miss C Phillips
Headteacher

"

The Bossy Christmas Fairy Nativity
Whole School Production

Child's Name(s): Class(es):
.....

I would like seats for (maximum of 2 across both performances)
Tuesday 17th December at 2pm o Number of seats:
Wednesday 18th December at 9:30am o Number of seats:

Signed (parent/carer) Date:

Copy of a letter sent home today



PTFA Film Night – Friday 13th December 2024

Despicable Me – Rated U

Children are invited to a film night on Friday 13th December from 3:10pm. The cost will be £5 per child and will include a snack. This is a fundraising event to raise funds for the children’s Christmas present this year. The event will be run by PTFA and school staff however, if you are available to help on the evening please let us know.

If your child is in Nursery and attends all day on a Friday, then they are welcome to join in.

Football Club will be running for those that have already paid for it, if your child would prefer to watch the film then please just pay £1.20.

There will be no Ark available on this evening but care will be given until the usual 5pm within the £5 cost.

Pick up will be promptly at 5pm.

Please enclose your payment of £5, exact change required, in an envelope with your child’s name on the outside marked ‘Film Night’ and place in the PTFA post box which is in the school entrance hall.

Please return by Friday 6th December 2024.

Kind regards,

Miss C Phillips

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PTFA Film night – Friday 13th December 2024

My child: Class:

I am available to help supervise: YES / NO

The person responsible for collecting my child at 5pm is:

.....

Signed:



02.12.2024
@6.30pm



Join us for a
**SUPPORTING
MY CHILD WITH
ANXIETY
ONLINE WORKSHOP**

BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-vvadjdd>

NHS

Midlands Partnership

NHS Foundation Trust

A Keele University Teaching Trust



**TAKE CARE
OF YOUR
MIND**

Before
You...



THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?

Seasonal Creativity in Nature

Free 4 week online course starting Thursday 21st November 2024

Join us for this festive, flexible learning course, where you will be invited to explore the natural world as inspiration for your own creativity.

Expert tutors introduce a variety of exercises and ideas ranging from creative writing, to foraged art, to festive treats. Each week we also consider the research to show how and why nature can support our wellbeing and why we believe creativity is for everyone!

This 12 hour course is completed online. You will receive an email pack each Thursday, with a menu of seasonal activities, ideas and inspiration to try over the following week.





Booking essential. Contact Rebecca Banks on communityforestservices@gmail.com or call 07525 120117. **This course is free to Staffordshire residents aged 19+.**




EarlyBird Plus Course for Parents

Has your child received an autism diagnosis?

Join the National Autistic Society's **EarlyBird Plus** programme delivered in Staffordshire by the Autism Inclusion Team to understand more about autism and how you can support your child.



Meet other parents and share experiences on our ten-week programme. Designed for parents of children aged from four to nine, we can help you understand autism and support your child, including:

- supporting interaction
- understanding sensory differences
- developing play
- interpreting behaviour.

Staffordshire Autism Inclusion Team will be delivering this course at: [Bridatown Primary School, Cannock](#)

The course runs over **ten weekly sessions** including two individual sessions. You will need to be able to commit to attending all 10 sessions.

On the following dates from 9.30am – 12.30pm – tea and coffee provided

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Monday 27 th January 2025 | 6. Monday 17 th March 2025 |
| 2. Monday 3 rd February 2025 | 7. Monday 24 th March 2025 |
| 3. Monday 10 th February 2025 | **Monday 31 st March 2025** |
| 4. Monday 24 th February 2025 | 8. Monday 7 th April 2025 |
| **Monday 3 rd March 2025 ** | **Two individual sessions arranged as convenient |
| 5. Monday 10 th March 2025 | |

For more information and to register for this free course please contact:
kate.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk

'Lots of strategies to use with my child / share with others. Thank you so much for all of the amazing tools and inspiration to make a difference.' Parent 2024

Secrets of the Season

Free 4-week online course starting Friday 22nd November

Discover the beauty of the season! Immerse yourself in the wonders of winter, through this online course, full of cosy connections to enjoy as a family.

This course guides families through how to make the most of this magical time of year, through a range of creative activities and simple, seasonal ideas. Drawing upon the Hygge ethos, you will learn how to connect with the season and embrace the darker, cosy winter months, to support the health, wellbeing and happiness of the whole family.

This is a 12 hour online learning course held over 4 weeks, delivered through an introductory zoom session, themed weekly email packs and access to digital resources. You can try the activities and explore the resources at times to suit you and your family.




Book your free place now. Contact Rebecca Banks on communityforestservices@gmail.com or call 07525 120117. This course is **FREE** for Staffordshire families.

Be Visible

Improve your visibility with accessories - clip on reflectors, bands and stickers to your coat and bag.



Be Bright, Be Seen.