

Friday Post

Friday 20th December 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,

What a week it has been! Full of festivities, celebrations and an inspection!

I am sure you will join with me in saying that the children's performance of The Bossy Christmas Fairy was excellent! The dancing, singing and acting were all wonderful, and the story was a kind reminder that Christmas is not about everything looking perfect, but celebrating the birth of a baby, with those we love.



We have enjoyed a very special visit today from Father Christmas who joined our class parties to deliver gifts. The gifts have been kindly donated by our PTA using some of the funds raised during this term's events. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to support with PTA events this year, will be working together in the new year to plan more events and look at how the funds raised can support with the work we do in school.

Alison Lloyd called in to join our Christmas dinner day on Thursday. As you know, Alison works for the Education Mental Health Support Team. The Team are available over the Christmas period should you wish to contact them - details can be found later in the Post.

However you spend the Christmas break, I hope it is full of peace and joy. We all look forward to welcoming you back into school in January.

Have a wonderful Christmas,

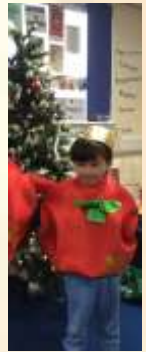
Miss Phillips



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



The Bossy Christmas Fairy



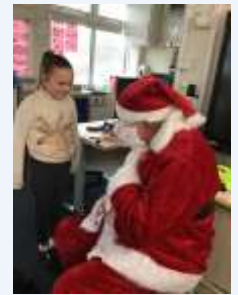




Christmas lunch



Delivering Christmas cards to our neighbours





A huge thank you from the PTFA for all your support with fundraising over this festive season, you have helped us to raise £665.65!! A fantastic amount which will benefit all the children in the New Year.



Goodbye & Good Luck!

Today we have said a sad goodbye to Alex as he leaves us to start at another school - Good luck Alex!

A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart
As Christmas time draws near.
May hope fill each room you decorate
And bring joy to those you hold dear.
May peace be before you at every meal
And faith ring through every song.
For Christ is alive, the light of the world
May he bless you all season long.



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



127

Holly

64

Sycamore

64

Can you catch the wind?

Fran "Yes, you are always catching it wherever you stand you are blocking it"

Pippa "Yes, you catch it with your mouth"

Georgie "The wind is catching the candles" (well spotted Georgie!)



Miss Phillips lighting our Advent wreath!

Ralph "If you left your door open you would catch it in your house!"

Lola "The wind is basically the air, you just can't see it"

Alex "You can't see it physically but you catch it without noticing"

Savanah "Anytime you breathe air in, that's like the wind the same as when you blow into a balloon"

Miss Phillips will be asking the children's thoughts on the following question during Worship in the New Year

BIG QUESTION

How long do you think you will live for?

Christingle service at St Michael's Church
Sunday 22nd December
4pm
All welcome!



Come to help spread hope and share the light of Jesus.
All ages welcome for oranges, candles, and carols.
(Christingles provided!)

HEDGEHOGS



Christmas party
Making a stable from
the wooden blocks
Our end of term 'big
write'
Decorating biscuits



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 6th January 2025 - Week ONE



	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)
	31/12/24, 23/1/25, 14/2/25, 4/3/25, 25/3/25, 16/4/25, 6/5/25, 27/5/25	9/1/25, 30/1/25, 21/2/25, 11/3/25, 2/4/25, 23/4/25, 13/5/25, 3/6/25	16/1/25, 7/2/25, 28/2/25, 18/3/25, 9/4/25, 30/4/25, 20/5/25, 10/6/25

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.

Achievements from home



Swimming



Football

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.



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*MTczMjI3OTE1Mi42My4xLjE3MzIyNzIxODkuMC4wLjA.

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/>

We are still looking for a cleaner at school, if you know of anyone please pass on the details below. Thank you



Cleaner Required

Job Title: Cleaning Operative

Job Type: Part Time/Permanent

Part Time Hours: 11 ¼ hours per week

Rate of Pay: £11.44 per hour

Schedule: Monday to Friday

Location

School Lane, Dunston

Stafford

Staffordshire

ST18 9AG

Experience: School Cleaning – 1 year (preferred)

If you would like to apply for this job, please contact Lisa Jones using the below contact details:

Telephone: 07776955936

Email: acmannth@workplace.co.uk

Intelligent Workplace Solutions Ltd. Registered Office: 40a Station Road, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9NT

T: 0844 561 1760 E: helpme@workplace.co.uk www.workplace.co.uk

Registered VAT number: 497919454 Company Registration No. 3737792

dates to Remember

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
Monday 26th May Friday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Friday 18th July	Last day of school
Tuesday 22nd July Friday 29th August	Summer Holidays



Before School club will start back 8am on 6th January 2025. After school clubs and the Ark will also start the first day back!



THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 23rd December - Monday 4th January
(excluding weekends and bank holidays)

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.



Burton and Uttoxeter
01283 504487

Cannock and Lichfield
01283 352113

Stafford
01283 352097

Tamworth
01785 301027



*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

STAFFORD MHST

Schools we work with:

- Burton Manor Primary School
- Castlechurch Primary School
- Doxey Primary & Nursery School
- Flash Ley Primary School
- John Wheeldon Primary Academy
- King Edward V1 High School
- Penkridge Middle School
- Sir Graham Balfour School
- St. Leonard's CofE First School
- Stafford Manor High School
- Veritas Primary Academy
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
- St Leonard's Primary School
- St Austin's Catholic Primary School
- Walton Hall Academy
- Walton Priory Middle School
- Silkmore Primary Academy
- Marshlands School
- Blessed William Howard Catholic School
- Bailey Street Alternative Provision Academy
- St. John's C of E Primary Academy
- The Weston Road Academy
- Tillington Manor Primary School
- Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

Toy safety

“I would hate for any other child to go through what Becca suffered because of buying dangerous toys via online marketplaces.”

Mum of two-year-old Becca who swallowed magnets from a toy

Toys from reputable brands are made to be safe. But if they've come from an unknown seller on an online marketplace, a market or small discount store, they could be dangerous.

Buying safely

- Buy toys from brand names you know. If you've never heard of the seller or the brand and price is really tempting, it could be dangerous
- Watch out for cheap copies of popular toys. They may not be made to UK safety standards.
- Check if the toy has been removed from sale because it's unsafe. Visit gov.uk and search 'product recalls'
- If you buy something that looks unsafe, trust your instincts and send it back.

Under 3s most at risk

Babies and toddlers are curious and naturally put everything in their mouths. So dangerous toys can pose the biggest risk to small children. Be especially careful when buying for under 3s.

Watch out for missing or contradictory age warnings. If a toy is pictured with a toddler but marketed as unsuitable for young children, pick something else.

Which toys are most dangerous?

- Toys with:
 - accessible button batteries that can burn through your child's food pipe
 - super strong magnets that can rip through your child's belly
 - long cords that can strangle your child
 - small parts that can choke your small child
- Water beads that can block your child's bowel if swallowed
- Electrical toys with exposed wires or chargers that can catch fire.



Checking toys

If you're unsure about the safety of a toy, here are some checks you can do:

- Check battery compartments for accessible button batteries or loose spares in the box
- Check for any loose small magnets
- Give the parts on the toy a quick tug and check for small parts that come off
- Look for long cords or access to stuffing
- Check if there are any age restrictions or safety warnings on the product.

Report dangerous toys

If you spot or buy a toy you're concerned about:

- Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133
- Citizens Advice consumer helpline [Welsh-speaking adviser]: 0808 223 1144
- Advice Direct Scotland helpline: 0808 164 6000
- Northern Ireland Consumerline: 0300 123 6262



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

Before You...



THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?

Light up your scooter

Add reflective lights to make sure you're safe to scoot.



Be Bright, Be Seen.



Whatever you're
facing this
holiday season,
Samaritans are
there to listen.

Call free day or night

116 123

SAMARITANS



Scan me!



Can you shine a light on the longest night?

Staffordshire County Council and Samaritans are partnering again to light buildings across Staffordshire green on Saturday 21 December (the longest night), to remind people they are **NEVER** alone, and support is **ALWAYS** available.

How you can get involved

- **16th – 22nd December** - Display the poster in your window, with a green light. Please stay safe and only use the LED candle provided*.
- **21st December** (the longest night) - Post a photo of your light on social media and share a story of how you have been helped, or have helped someone in their time of need. Anyone can contact Samaritans for free at any time, from any phone, on **116 123**.

Please spread the word by tagging Staffordshire County Council and using the hashtag #LightUpTheNight in your posts. Or email your pictures to philip.wade@staffordshire.gov.uk

Please note - The tealight provided contains button batteries which could harm a child or pet if swallowed. Please keep out of reach.

Would you like to gain the skills to save a life?
Scan the QR code to find out more about our free
Suicide Awareness and Prevention training.

