

Friday Post

Friday 6th 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,

Yesterday we had a fantastic morning watching a pantomime production of Snow White! The children had a fantastic time, and the noise they produced was loud enough to be heard across the town! It was great to see them enjoying themselves as we begin the run up to Christmas.

We started the week with three brilliant workshops led by Alison from the YouthNet. Each class explored the Christmas message through story-telling, play, craft and times of reflection. It was great to see the Christmas story coming to life, and the children engaging with it in their own way. We look forward to more sessions with Alison later in the school year.

Our School Council and Worship Team wanted to help support our local foodbank following our harvest donations. We have set up a donation point in the entrance hall which you are welcome to drop items into in the run up to Christmas. We also welcomed Richard from the charity Link For Life, who support communities in Africa. We will be sharing details of how we can partner with this charity in the new year.



Next week, we are go, go, go with our rehearsals for the Bossy Christmas Fairy - please return your requests for seats as soon as possible. We know you are in for a treat!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips



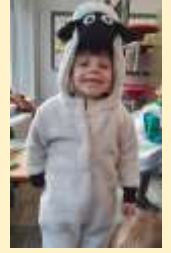
Headteacher: Miss C Phillips,
St Leonard's First School & Nursery,
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG
Tel: 01785 712488

E-mail: office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk



Youth Net

Each class explored the Christmas message through story-telling, play, craft and times of reflection.



Science Experiment
Foxes are investigating the strength of sun light.



A massive thank you to everyone who supported the stalls at the Christmas light switch on last week. Your generosity helped us to raise £295.00 and we still have the raffle to go!



PTFA Film Night Friday 13th December 2024



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.



Volunteers Needed!

Nativity Refreshments

Wednesday 18th December 9.30am

We are looking for some willing volunteers to help serve refreshments before the Christmas Nativity on Wednesday. If you are able to help please contact the office. Thank you.

Asda Cashpot

Thank you to everyone who supported the ASDA cashpot appeal - your shopping has raised a fantastic **£195.88** at no cost to yourselves!!



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.



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**

ebay	M&S	GROUPON	Booking.com
buyagift	Sainsbury's	Argos	red letter
Iceland	moonpig	OSOS	GAME

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

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Over £35 million raised | Trustpilot | 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!





OWLS



Owls have been getting festive this week decorating their class Christmas tree and a Christmas themed PE lesson!



Attendance figures

School Attendance 2nd - 6th December 2024

Hedgehogs 93%

Owls 95%

Foxes 91%

Whole School 93%

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

Holly



115

Oak

108

Sycamore

68



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**.



Is there more happiness or sadness in the world?

Savannah *"It can be a mix of both but happiness and hope can over take sadness"*

Harrison EH *"There are more happy people than sad because sad people don't like being sad"*

Erin *"It's equal because people can change"*

Fran *"Equal amount, sometimes people act happy but are sad on the inside"*

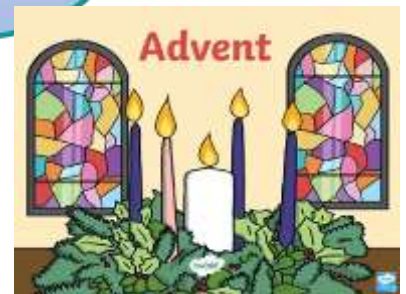
Bow *"It can depend on the season as people are happier in the summer"*

Alex *"It's equal because poorer places can be sad, it can depend if you are poor or not"*

Miss Phillips will be asking the children's thoughts on the following question during Worship next week

BIG QUESTION

Why is it important to prepare for Christmas?



Panto fun!

Lots of shouting and laughter during yesterdays pantomime of Snow White!

HEDGEHOGS & OWLS

Christmas play



Please can you start bringing in costumes for the Christmas Play from Monday onwards and by Friday 13th December at the latest.

All children recently took home a letter outlining what we need. If you are not sure please email the office.

Many thanks, Miss Laing

“
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.”

RAY PRITCHARD

womans day

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.

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER MONDAY 9th
DECEMBER**

A red poster for a Christmas lunch menu. At the top left is a white silhouette of Santa Claus's head. The word "CHRISTMAS" is written in large white letters. The menu items are listed in red and green text: "TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TURKEY with all the trimmings", "PIGS IN BLANKETS", "YORKSHIRE PUDDING with ROAST POTATOES", "CARROT BATONS & PEAS", and "CHRISTMAS COOKIE (Ve)". A red ribbon is tied around the text. At the bottom, a yellow square contains the date "THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2024". The logo for "edwards and ward" is at the bottom left, with the tagline "a recipe for success".



HEDGEHOGS



We have been finding out about animals from the polar regions and finding out how they are different to animals from other climates. We have been using our shape knowledge to make shape designs. Also Reception had Forest School and we are starting to get ready for Christmas.



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 9th December - Week THREE



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



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



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*MTczMjI3OTE1Mi42My4xLjE3MzIyNzkxODkuMC4wLjA.

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

Friday 13th December	PTFA Film Night - pick up 5pm
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.**

11/12/2024

Nursery



Learn to Swim This Winter!

Join Now for only £10 and pay nothing more until January for swimming lessons at your local Freedom Leisure Centre!

Swimming isn't just a fun activity; it's a lifesaving skill. Build confidence, stay active, and be ready to enjoy the water safely. [Sign up today and make a splash!](#)

Don't forget... All of our swimming lesson members get FREE open and lane sessions included!

Offer ends soon – don't miss out!

Best Regards,

Megan Brier

Area Swim Manager – Derbyshire Dales, Stafford & Stone

megan.brier@freedom-leisure.co.uk



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.



A GUIDE TO SURVIVING CHRISTMAS



TAKE TIME OUT

The festive period can be really tiring with lots of demands on your time and energy. From Nativity plays to visiting families, you can end up feeling drained if you don't take time for yourself.

If you are starting to feel tired or overwhelmed at all, step away and do the things that make you happy. Whether that is snuggling up in bed watching your favourite festive film or getting a walk in outdoors, make sure you look after yourself over the holidays!


PLAN AHEAD

For some people, Christmas is a difficult time of the year. If you are one of these people, it can be useful to think about things that might help make it a bit easier in advance and write them down.

If you experience panic attacks, make a note of what helps you with these and keep them with you. If you are going somewhere unfamiliar for Christmas, make sure to pack something that reminds you of your safe spaces.





USE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS



It's important to let people know if you are struggling and let them know how they can help you. It is especially important to let them know what they could avoid doing to help as well.


You can tell them what activities you would rather not be asked to join in or what topics you would prefer to not discuss over the festive period.




YOU'RE NOT ALONE



Christmas is often presented as a time for being with those that you love which can be difficult if you do not feel that you are able to talk to people or have a natural support network.




Identify people who you can reach out to and talk to over the festive period before you're at a point of needing help. This could be a friend who brings you comfort, someone from your family, or a professional.





LOOK AFTER YOURSELF



Here are some things you can do to help look after yourself this festive period:


Set Boundaries

Say no to things that you know won't make you happy or will be a trigger for you




Be Kind To Yourself


Don't be tough on yourself if you are struggling. Lots of people don't enjoy Christmas for lots of different reasons and it is important to prioritise your mental health.



Plan Ahead



If you do have to do something that makes you feel anxious or stressed, plan a treat for getting through it like some chocolate or watching your favourite TV show



Remind Yourself Your Feelings Are Valid

You may not be matching the emotions of those around you and that is absolutely fine! Whatever you are feeling is ok.



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.

Tuesday 3 - Tuesday 10 December

ALL donations will be doubled!

Scan to give!



**Donate today,
give wildlife a lifeline**



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.

