

Friday Post

Friday 7th March 2025

Our School Value: Forgiveness

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

Dear Families,

This week marks the beginning of Lent in the church calendar. A time of preparation for Easter Sunday, when Christians will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the hope that brings. We enjoyed welcoming Chris Beardmore into worship on Wednesday to explain what lent means, and the importance of this time of year in the Christian calendar.



Mr Atkins enjoyed visiting another school within our Trust on Tuesday. He met with other Early Years Teachers, they shared their good practice, and explored the classroom environment at Church Eaton. It is always good for staff to meet with other professionals and bring back ideas that can be put into practice here.

We received a photo this week of the books we purchased being given to the children at the Care Centre in Mufambisa, South Africa. We are very grateful to the Link for Life team for taking them for us. Rev. Richard, said the books were very well received and that the children would be enjoying sharing them with one another. The students will be giving some feedback from their visit at a special Hands at Work event on Sunday 6 April 6.30pm for 7pm at St Michael's Church in Penkridge. Please do go along if you can make it.



Next week, will be continuing our assemblies on how our brains work, and we will be exploring autism. As an inclusive school, we want to ensure our pupils understand how we are all different and how we can celebrate this as well as supporting one another where we need to.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips



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



WORLD
BOOK DAY
6 MARCH 2025



Thank you for supporting World Book Day, the children had a fabulous time admiring each others costumes.



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:

- Expressive Arts & Design** - Make a junk model castle or mythical creature such as a unicorn or dragon. Paint p/ draw pictures of mermaids, knights and princesses. Talk about myths and legends.
- History** - visit castles such as Ludlow or Tamworth and talk about their features. Draw a picture of a knight or castles and write labels for them.
- Maths** - Create a time table for a day in the life of a princess, knight or dragon. Practice counting to 10 and remembering number bonds to 5 and 10.
- English** - Visit the library and find books about castles and the local history of Stafford and the surrounding area. Continue to practise name writing, letter formation and daily reading.
- PSHE** - Encourage your child with their independence - dressing and undressing, washing hands properly and using a knife and fork correctly.

Owls:

- History** - Research and write some facts about Stafford Castle or another castle which you have visited.
- Design Technology** - use junk materials to make a model of a castle. Try to include features such as towers, turrets, keep, bailey etc.
- Science** - Can you find any signs of spring in your garden or local area? Write a list, take photos, or draw pictures to show what you find.
- Science** - In school we are learning about growing, changing and survival. Can you find out how a camel/cactus survives in the desert or how a polar bear/penguin survives in the Arctic/Antarctic?
- Maths** - Numbots. Little and often is best to support fluency in number bonds.

Foxes:

Create a water cycle experiment. Fill a large bowl with water. Put an empty pot in the middle of the water. Cover the bowl with film and place on a sunny windowsill for a few days. You should soon see the water start to evaporate, it will cool and condense on the film before falling into the empty pot as 'rain'. (take photos to email/bring in)

Tell the story of the day a volcano erupted. You could write it or record it. For example, you might want to look at a volcano we have looked at together such as Mt Vesuvius or Mt Etna etc.

Children should be accessing TT Rockstars regularly to support their fluency in their times table knowledge. Please speak to Mrs Carrington if you require the log in for this.

Investigate different states of matter. Look around your house and make a list of different solids, liquids and gases that you can find.

Make a 3D model of a volcano



Draw a map showing where volcanoes are around the world.



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**.





Stars of the Week



Postcard from the Headteacher



Achievements from home



Dance Show



Football



Horse jumping



Gymnastics



YEAR 3

Adding the Prefix bi- (Meaning 'two' or 'twice')
 Adding the Prefix re- (Meaning 'again' or 'back')

bicycle	reappear
biplane	redecorate
bisect	reapply
bilingual	repay
biannual	rebuild

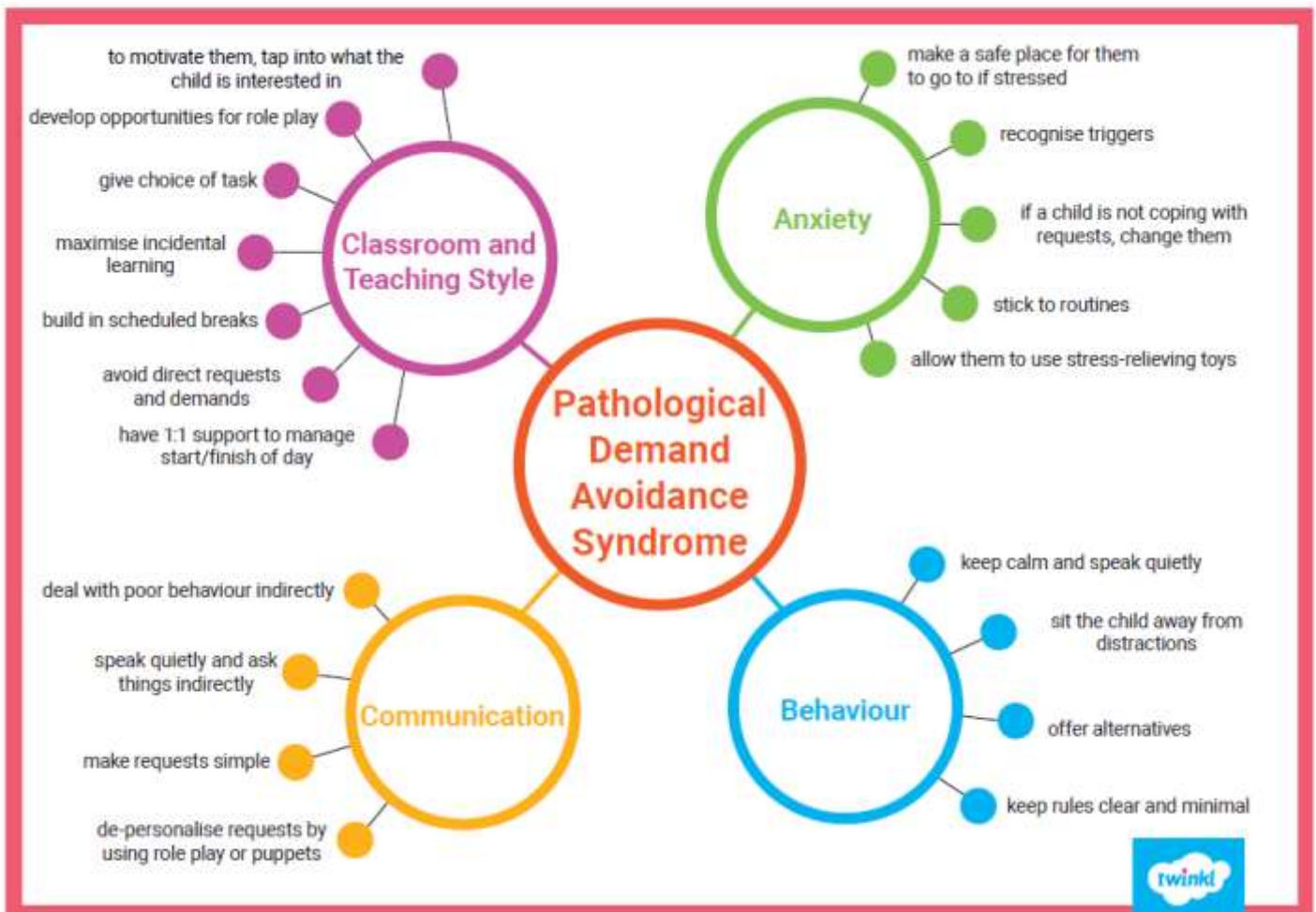
YEAR 4

Word Families Based on Common Words,
 Showing How Words Are Related in Form and
 Meaning

phone phonics microphone telephone homophone	real reality realistic unreal realisation
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Vacancy

Miss Parker will be retiring at Easter after over 25 years of being at St Leonard's. We are now advertising for the role of a lunchtime supervisor if you are, or know of anyone, who is interested please speak to the office.



Attendance figures

School Attendance 3rd - 7th March 2025

Hedgehogs 95%

Owls 95%

Foxes 98%

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.



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.



FOXES - you will still need your swimming kits on Fridays.



Weekly House Point Tally

Holly



113

Sycamore

53

Oak

69



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/>

Why does the moon come out in the daytime, does it mean it is still night time? - Darcie, Y4

Darcie "It's confusing when it's light outside but the moon is shining"

Bow "If the moon is out in the day, why can't we see the sun at night?"

Matilda "the moon is always there, the sun just blocks it"

Joel "The sun, moon and stars are always out you just can't always see them"

Myla "the moon is always there you just can't see it because of the clouds"

Orla "when you see the moon in the day maybe it's because the sun is blocking it"

Miss Phillips will be asking the children's thoughts on the following question during Worship on Friday.

BIG QUESTION

Can you be happy and sad at the same time?



Owls have been working very hard in maths and have been using arrays to calculate multiplication facts.



After School Clubs

Ark invoices

All clubs and March after school care invoices are due for payment via your ParentPay accounts. Thank you







The children have been brilliant with their independent reading this week, spotting words all around the school. World Book Day also helped bring reading to life with lots of great costumes. We also acted out the Palm Sunday story and learnt about why everyone was excited by Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. We also found out why some people were angry about what was happening. In our understanding of the world we talked about what animals really exist and ones that don't.



HEDGEHOGS



Cher



Cher was born Cherilyn Sarkisian on 20th May 1946 in California, USA. As a child, she struggled with reading and making sense of numbers, but it wasn't until adulthood that she was diagnosed with dyslexia. When she was younger, she didn't think she had a particular talent for anything but knew that she wanted to be famous. She dropped out of high school early and moved to Hollywood at the age of 16.

Cher's learning differences didn't prevent her from pursuing her dream and she has become one of the world's best-selling music artists, being dubbed by the media as the 'Goddess of Pop'. She has won a Grammy, an Emmy, an Academy Award and three Golden Globes. She has also starred in many films and television shows. Cher is also known for being an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and for neurodivergent children. Speaking about her dyslexia, she has said that she wouldn't change it and has learnt to cope with it, for example by reading scripts slowly and memorising them almost immediately.

"If you're waiting for someone to believe in you, you'll be waiting forever.
You must believe in yourself."

[Cher Quotes \(quotefancy\)](#)





Next week we are learning
 'Lord I lift your name on high'

[Lord I Lift Your Name on High](#)

Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

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 10th March 2025 - Week THREE

New Menu!



	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Chocolate Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Vanilla Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Sultana Shortbread (Ve)
TUESDAY	BBQ Chicken Tortilla with Golden Rice Veg of the Day Pineapple Upside Down Cake (V)	Sausages with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Iced Carrot Cake (V)	Chicken Meatballs with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Apple Sponge (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fresh Fruit Salad (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fresh Fruit Salad (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fresh Fruit Salad (Ve)
THURSDAY	Italian Sausage Pasta Bake Veg of the Day Sultana Flapjack (Ve)	Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Apple Flapjack (Ve)	Penne with Beef Bolognese Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Custard Rice Pudding (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 Chocolate Brownie (V)
	24/2/25, 17/3/25, 7/4/25, 28/4/25, 19/5/25, 9/6/25, 30/6/25, 21/7/25	3/3/25, 24/3/25, 14/4/25, 5/5/25, 26/5/25, 16/6/25, 7/7/25	10/3/25, 31/3/25, 21/4/25, 12/5/25, 2/6/25, 23/6/25, 14/7/25

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

V - Vegetarian Ve - Vegan



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.

dates to Remember

Thursday 27th March	Y2 parent English workshop
Tuesday 1st April	Parents evening
Wednesday 2nd April	Parents evening
Thursday 3rd April	Nursery parents stay & play email has been sent home
Thursday 10th April	Easter Church celebration - everyone welcome School closes at 1.30pm
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
Tuesday 6th May	Foxes - Chasewater Activity day
Thursday 8th May	Year 4 parent timetables workshop
Thursday 14th May	Year 3 parent timetables workshop
Monday 26th May Friday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Friday 20th June	Sports Day & Family picnic
Friday 18th July	Last day of school
Tuesday 22nd July Friday 29th August	Summer Holidays



Year 2 12.03.2025	Year 1 19.03.2025	Reception 26.03.2025	Nursery 02.04.2025
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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALDS

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Halo, the God of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings, if you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College

For children and young people with SEN and disabilities in Staffordshire




Wildfamilies
At The Fountains Primary School, Burton upon Trent, DE13 0HB
Saturday 29 March, 10am - 12pm
 You could choose from a variety of activities-mud kitchen play, natural crafts, toast a marshmallow and access to the SEND play equipment, including swings and climbing frames.
 Suitable for all ages. Parents must attend.
 Booking essential via Aiming High, please visit: 'Staffordshire Connects' website or call 0300 111 8007.



staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh



For children and young people with SEN and disabilities in Staffordshire




Family Fun Day
At The Wolsley Centre, ST17 0WT
Saturday 22 March, 10.30am - 3pm
 There will be activities both indoors and outdoors in our Learning Hub building, rain garden and outdoor classroom. Come and take part in anything from wild yoga, bushcraft, minibeast hunting to natural crafts and anything else in between!
 Suitable for all ages. Parents must attend.
 Booking essential via Aiming High, please visit: 'Staffordshire Connects' website or call 0300 111 8007.



staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh




Find out more



🎉 All Stars Cricket Programme at Church Eaton Cricket Club 🎉
 ST20 0AG

Start Date: Friday, 9th May 2025

Time: 6pm-7pm 🕒 Duration: 8 weeks 📅

Cost: £50 per child 🏷️ What's Included:

Personalised t-shirt 👕 with your child's name

Backpack 🎒 Cricket bat 🏏

Cricket ball 🏏

For more information, scan the QR code or contact 01785 538013



FREE Understanding Behaviour For Parents/Carers

Please note, this session is for parents/carers of children with a diagnosis or on the pathway.
(Inc. those not yet referred to our service).

DATE	SESSION OVERVIEW	LOCATION	TIME
Monday 17 th March 2025	Understanding Behaviour Parents/Carers are invited to join a member of the Autism Inclusion Team for an online check-in session with time for questions.	Microsoft Teams	16.30-18.00

SPACES ARE LIMITED

To reserve your space, please email: amanda.jackson@staffordshire.gov.uk
and include any questions to be answered in the session along with the name of the school your child attends.



With pride. With purpose. With you.



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.

