



# Friday Post

Friday 12th September 2025

## Our School Value: Thankfulness

**Key Verse:** *'Let all that you do, be done in love.'* Corinthians 16:14

We have enjoyed another wonderful week at St Leonard's where everyone's learning and friendship has been shining through each and every day.

I have been enjoying visiting classes throughout the week. I have been overwhelmed by the curiosity and kindness as well as the love of learning in every classroom. During the week, I have shown several visitors around school including our Chair of Governor, parents looking for a school place and our Early Years Advisor. Everyone has praised the children and our school; we really are so lucky to have such an inspiring whole school family. Thank you to everyone.

During worship this week, we have continued to explore our school motto, 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn.' Thank you to everyone for your 'All About Me' summer projects which are taking pride of place on display in our hall.

Each Wednesday, two children from each class will be bringing 'Wow' learning to me to celebrate and receive a praise post card. The learning will also be displayed by my office so that everyone can enjoy the incredible learning. It is a real highlight of my week.

Every week in the Friday post, I will share some updates about me and the journey of our school this year. I live with my husband and two children Imogen, who is 16 years old, and Henry, who is 13 years old. We like to keep busy with lots of outdoor activities such as walking our spring spaniel, Matilda, cycling and running. Henry even started skim boarding this holidays luckily we didn't have too many injuries! I have been a Headteacher in two schools in Tamworth previously and I have worked as a School Improvement Leader within the same Trust as these schools.

I love teaching and driving forward excellence for all children in our care. I believe that every second of every day at Primary School should be full of joy, wonder and a love of learning. Children are always at the heart of our decisions in hand with an ethos of always aiming higher. I am looking forward to working with the staff team to bring about even greater excellence for every child at St Leonard's C of E First School.

It has been lovely welcoming everyone to school each day and I look forward to getting to know everyone better over the term ahead.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead, Mrs Keay

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

 **Staffordshire  
University  
Academies  
Trust**

# Stars of the Week



## Care, Love and Kindness Award



*Let all that you do, be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14*



Next week we are learning our school hymn

**'Thank You Lord'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njsdfxK9FcQ>

Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

Dear God

Thank you for our school where we  
'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'  
Thank you for our friends and the love  
we share.

Thank you for all our teachers who help  
us to learn & play.

Inspire us to be curious and to aim  
high each and every day.

Amen

## Weekly House Point Tally

Oak



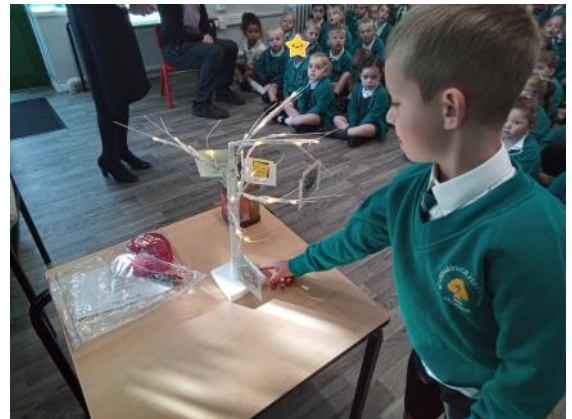
123

Holly

105

Sycamore

86



Switching on the tree  
lights to signal the start of  
Worship.



### Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Keay 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.



**Morning Club** will be available every morning from 8am for children in Rec-Y4.

Just turn up **no need to book.**



**Ark** after school care will be available from every day from 3:10pm  
until 5pm for children in Rec-Y4 and until 4pm for children in Nursery.

These sessions **MUST** be pre-booked a month in advance, please make sure you  
send in your booking form to Mrs Briganti. Thank you

# Headteacher Award



## PE STARS OF THE WEEK



## Wanted - Ball Pit Balls

Do you have any ball pit balls that you no longer use? If so, Mr Brown & Mrs Jackson would love to take them off your hands for use during Ark. Please hand in to the office.



## Wellies

Could ALL children please have a pair of wellies at school. It is important that the children have wellies in school every day so they can join in with impromptu sessions in the forest area, wet play and they are also needed when we walk across the farmers field to church. Thank you.



## Drinks Bottles



Please make sure your child brings a drinks bottle to school every day. They can be topped up at school. Please make sure they are named.

## Quote of the Week

During his RE lesson Tommy said:

*"I am thankful to God, because he created the world"*

## 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.



Order forms were sent home at the beginning of the week for school photos. Orders can be made on line or you can hand in your order form & money to the school office.



## PE - Thursdays

All children will be having PE on the same day this year, therefore all children can come to school wearing their PE kits on a Thursday.

Teal T-Shirt – plain or logo t-shirt from Crested Schoolwear

Black Shorts or black jogging bottoms

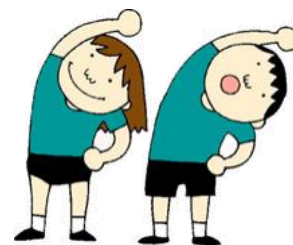
Trainers

PE Hoodie or school jumper (no sweatshirts thank you)

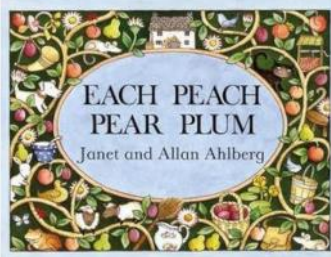
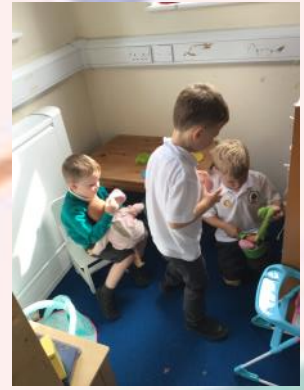
**NO** football kits

Earrings **MUST** be removed for PE - if your child can not remove them by themselves, please take them out at home before coming to school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



# HEDGEHOGS



In our second week, we have continued to build our relationships with our new friends. We have been really enjoying joining in with Each, Peach Pear, Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and talking about the different characters in the book. We have been singing the Nursery Rhyme 'Jack and Jill' and using actions and learning to be safe with our new friend Hedgy the Hedgehog.



# Attendance figures

School Attendance 8th - 12th September 2025

Hedgehogs 96%

Owls 97%

Foxes 95%

Whole School 97%

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.

## Impact of lateness over a school year:



5 minutes late every day = 3 days absent

15 minutes late every day = 10 days absent

30 minutes late every day = 19 days absent

Pupils arriving late miss valuable teaching and learning time and it can contribute to them becoming anxious when they enter the classroom late.

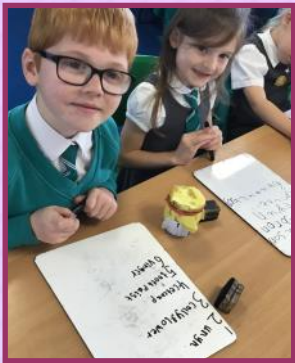
## Achievements from outside school



Kick boxing

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.

# OWLS



In Science, Owls are finding out about a range of scientists and their discoveries. This week we have found out about Linda Buck who discovered that we have hundreds of odour receptors in our noses which help us to identify different smells. We used our own noses to try to guess the contents of a range of pots. It was great fun and the children were brilliant at identifying the smells.



Owls have also been learning how to mix secondary colours using the three primary colours and how to mix paler colours by adding white. Next week they will be finding out about the artist Mark Rothko who loved mixing colours too.



Dear Parents/Carers

Registering for Free School Meals during this difficult time, many families are facing a significant change to their personal circumstances. If you fulfil certain criteria, you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals (FSM) for your child.



Are you entitled?

Once an application has been made and is successful, the school will be notified by the Local Authority and then we can process your entitlement. Even if your child is in

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 but you are eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please do apply as it enables the school to access additional funding for your child. This additional funding enables school to provide wider opportunities, experiences and invest in resources to raise pupil attainment.

The entitlement criteria for Free School Meals from 1 April 2018 is for those on:-

#### Income Support

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note the 'new style' job seekers allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance. Please note the 'new style' employment and support allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income

eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify

#### The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

#### Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)

Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

If you think you are eligible for Free School Meals, please make an online application at:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

It really is a very quick process to apply online and the decision in most cases is instant. If you get a positive outcome then please do let the office know so that your entitlement can begin as soon as possible.

## After School Clubs & Ark

REMINDER: payment for after school clubs and care for the HALF term should be paid using ParentPay by Monday 15th to secure your child's place at the club. **PLEASE NOTE** that there are a few places left in all clubs with the exception of Art & Craft club which is currently full - please contact the office if you would like your child entered on to the waiting list.

## Getting physical with 'Just Dance'



Gardening club have been harvesting the fruit and vegetables they have grown.



Art & Craft club made autumn themed magnetic paintings and practiced their sewing skills





# Postcard from the Headteacher

*Learn to Love, Love to Learn*

## Easy fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stleonardsdunston>



Support our school at no added cost to yourself! By registering with Easy Fundraising every time you order on line you could gain commission for school. There are lots of companies registered including Amazon, Currys, Booking.com to name a few. Rest assured nobody at school sees what you are purchasing. - please support your school community!



During Monday's whole school worship, Mrs Trumble introduced the children to a calming 'stilling' exercise—part of the Oxford Diocese's Space Makers mindfulness resource. Rooted in Christian tradition, this gentle practice helps children pause, breathe, and find quiet moments of reflection, supporting their emotional wellbeing in a busy world.

# Foundation Governor Vacancy



A vacancy has arisen for a Foundation Governor on our Local Academy Council (School Governing Board)

Like all LAC members (Governors) Foundation Governors work to support the Headteacher and staff and they have a special responsibility to support the Christian ethos of the school.

You will be expected to attend Governor's meetings which happen after school hours and to also visit school so that you are aware what is happening in classrooms talking to both staff and children.

Although preference may be someone from our parish church, we are grateful for the support of anyone who maybe outside our parish. Successful candidates must be over 18 years of age and will need to have a DBS check which will be organised through the school office.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please contact:

**Email:** [office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk)

**Tel:** 01785 712488

Mrs Keay will be asked the children's thoughts on the following question during Worship this week.



**Alfie** "Organey, yellow because it's 'fish finger Friday'"

**George B** "Same as Alfie, but add chips"

**Mr Atkins** "Red, as it's pizza Friday in my home and red is the colour of the tomatoes"

**Ralph** "Red, because it's my favourite colour and Friday is my favourite day as it's part school and part weekend"

**Elsie G** "Yellow, because Friday is a happy day and yellow is a happy colour"



### Blitz Artwork

Foxes have been busy this week developing pastel backgrounds for their Blitz-themed pieces. They will be adding their silhouette figures next week.



In Science, children were provided with a force meter and an object to pull. The children were challenged to pull the object with the force meter on different surfaces to see the force in newtons needed to make the object move. The children chose to test e.g. carpet, table tops, sandpaper, grass, etc. We then recorded our findings and completed the conclusion.



In English we have been creating compound sentences.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 17th September | Forest School - Nursery                                      |
| Wednesday 24th September | Forest School - Reception                                    |
| Wednesday 1st October    | Forest School - Year 1                                       |
| Wednesday 8th October    | Forest School - Year 2                                       |
| Wednesday 15th October   | Forest School - Year 3                                       |
| Wednesday 22nd October   | Forest School - Year 4                                       |
| Wednesday 22nd October   | Parents evening - more info to follow                        |
| Thursday 23rd October    | Church Celebration @ 9:10am - all parents welcome to join us |
| Thursday 23rd October    | Parents evening - more info to follow                        |
| Friday 24th October      | Inset Day - school closed to pupils                          |
| Monday 27th October      | Half Term  |
| Monday 3rd November      | Back to school   |
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|                          |  |
|                          |  |



Please see the dates above for Forest School sessions.

Children should arrive at school in clothing suitable for getting muddy on their Forest school day. Please also send your child with a sun hat/ waterproof clothing depending on the weather, a coat & wellies are a **MUST!** Please make sure all items are named.

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



Please search for

St Leonards First School  
& Nursery



Our School website

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