



Friday Post

Friday 5th September 2025

Our School Value: Thankfulness

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



Thank you to children, families and staff for such a wonderful first week of the Autumn Term. It has been a true privilege to join St Leonard's and I am very proud of being the Headteacher of such a beautiful and inspiring school community.

Kindest thanks also for the warm welcome on the gate each morning and afternoon. It is lovely to see so much friendship and community spirit each day. I look forward to getting to know everyone during the term ahead.

All of the children have settled back to their learning superbly; I have enjoyed visiting classrooms and speaking to everyone. I am so impressed with the confidence and politeness of your children; they are amazing.

Our youngest learners have dazzled us this week too. We are so proud of Hedgehog class and how all of the children have settled in to our school routines. With thanks to Mr Atkins, Mrs Jackson and all of the staff and children for helping our nursery and reception children.

During worship this week, we have been exploring our school motto, 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn.' We have enjoyed talking about the Christian Value of 'Love.' In particular, we have explored how we can show our love to others and what we have loved about each day. Please continue to talk about our school motto and how as a family you can show love and care for each other.

Every Wednesday, we will be exploring the theme of 'Diversity within Our Community and Our Wonderful World.' This week, I enjoyed talking to the children all about my family, hobbies and interests. During the half term ahead, the children and staff will be invited to talk about themselves; I'm really looking forward to getting to know our whole school family. We are also developing plans to invite members of our local and wider community to our worship to talk to us about cultures, hobbies, jobs, etc. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking part in one of our Wednesday Worship.

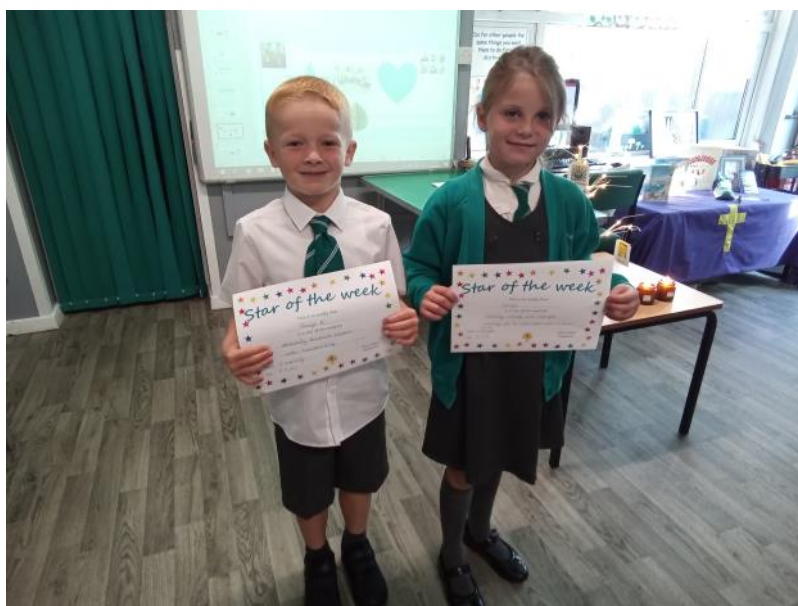
Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead, Mrs Keay

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Announcing a new Headteacher award

During our Friday Worship, in addition to 'Star of the Week,' I will also be introducing a new award to celebrate children who have shown exemplary levels of 'Care, Love and Kindness' to others in line with our school vision 'Learn to Love; Love to Learn.' Every Friday, the children who receive awards will join me for afternoon tea with hot chocolate and biscuits to celebrate their love of learning and love of each other.



Headteacher Award



Care, Love & Kindness Award



Worship Team & School Council Leaders - Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4

We are looking for children to join the School Council and Worship Team!

If you want to help make school even better and help to lead worship and assemblies

Then tell us:

Why would you be good for the job, you can write a few words or draw a picture!

Your friends will vote — good luck!

House Captains - Y4

Do you love helping others and cheering on your team? Would you like to lead **Holly**, **Oak**, or **Sycamore** this year?

Voting is next week – so start thinking: How will you be a great leader? How can you help your team win the cup?

Good luck to all who enter!

PE - Thursdays

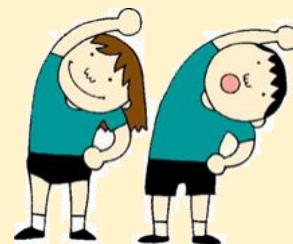
All children will be having PE on the same day this year, therefore all children can come to school wearing their PE kits on a Thursday.

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

Black Shorts or black jogging bottoms

Trainers

PE Hoodie or school jumper



NO 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.

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, please make sure you send in your booking form to Mrs Briganti. Thank you

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.



New to you rail!

Please help yourself to any of the items on our rail

which can be found either outside of school or in the entrance hall. If you child has outgrown any uniform and you would like to donate for others to use, please make sure you have removed any names and then place on the rail for others.

Thank you.



Fruit

Children in Nursery through to the end of Year 2 are supplied with 1 piece of fruit per day from the Government. Please could children in Foxes (Y3 & Y4) remember to bring a healthy snack to eat at break time eg fruit, carrot sticks or raisins - no crisps or chocolate



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



Hedgehogs Class Charter

Be kind.

Be safe.

Show respect.



Lots of settling in activities for Nursery & Reception this week linked to their 'class charter' Be kind, Be safe & Show respect



Attendance figures

School Attendance 2nd - 5th September 2025

Hedgehogs 96%

Owls 100%

Foxes 99%

Whole School 98%

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.

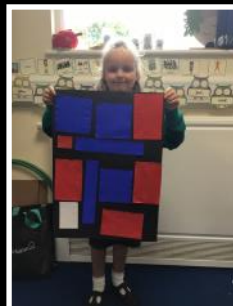
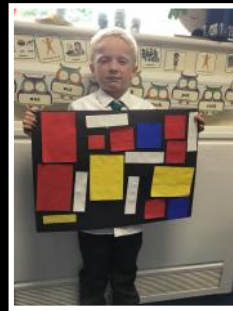
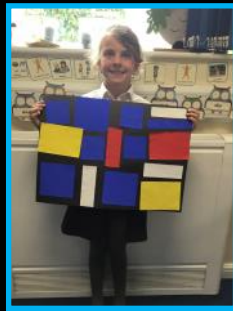
Achievements from outside school



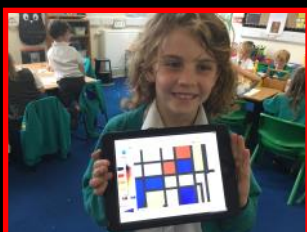
Well done for completing the
Summer Reading Challenge

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.

Class Owls have been learning about the three primary colours in their art lessons. We looked at some paintings by Piet Mondrian who is known for painting horizontal and vertical black lines. He would then fill in some of the spaces using the primary colours and leave the rest white. We created our own pictures in the style of Mondrian by sticking white, yellow, red and blue squares and rectangles onto black paper.



We have also created pictures in the style of Mondrian using PurpleMash on the iPads.



After the Holidays

Dear God,
The holidays are over and we return to school for a new term. May it be for us all a new start: a chance to surprise ourselves at what we can achieve, a new opportunity to make friends and to make this school a community where everyone can feel at home.




Next week we are learning our school hymn
'This little light of Mine'
["This Little Light Of Mine"](#)
Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

Getting to Know You - Mrs Keay's Holiday Project

It has been lovely to meet all of the children during my visits to St Leonard's C of E First School over the last two weeks. I can't wait to get to know everyone in September.

I would love to make a display of your special talents, hobbies and interests when we start the new term. Here are some activities which you might want to take part in over the holidays to share with me and your class. We will display the learning in school in September to celebrate our whole school family.

Creates any of the following:

- Piece of Art (Painting, collage, clay/3d)
- Poem
- Story
- Report
- Poster
- Diary/Journal
- Booklet
- Piece of Music/Drama
- Labelled picture/diagram
- Post card
- Use of Technology to present your information
- Other

Possible Topics:

- Hobbies
- Family
- Friends
- Favourite Places
- People who inspire you
- Subject of interest in any subject area (eg: Romans, Italy, Rugby, ballet)
- All about You
- Own Choice




Reading - Reading - Reading

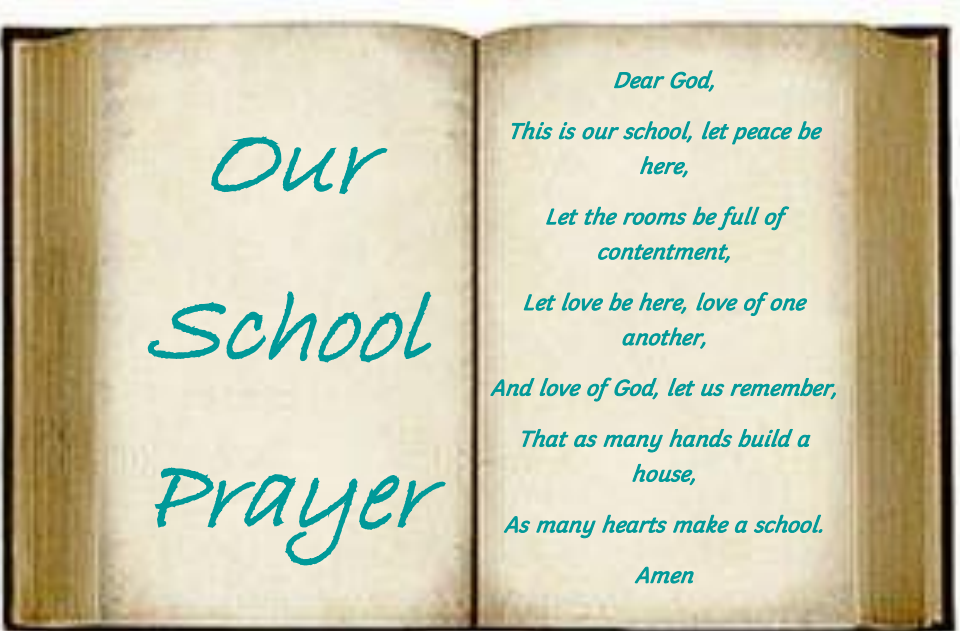
Remember to keep reading regularly over the holidays and keep up with your number fluency/facts including Numbots and Times Table Rockstars.

Summer Reading Challenge
Join the summer reading challenge at your local library:
<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Everyone who completes the 'Story Garden Reading Challenge' will be celebrated in assembly on our return to school.

Enjoy being creative and I can't wait to see your projects in September, Mrs Keay.

A reminder about the 'Getting to Know You' Summer Holiday Project. There's still time to take part. Please bring in your projects/creative work by next Wednesday. Mrs Keay can't wait to make a display in her office for visitors to admire. You will also gain a Headteachers award.



**OUR
School
Prayer**

*Dear God,
This is our school, let peace be here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment,
Let love be here, love of one another,
And love of God, let us remember,
That as many hands build a house,
As many hearts make a school.
Amen*



Foxes have enjoyed a great first week back, and have been working incredibly hard in Maths recalling multiplication facts.



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.



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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 10th September	Keyboard lessons re-start for those who signed up
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



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!

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/>