



Friday Post

Friday 10th October 2025

Our School Value: Thankfulness

Key Verse: *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one that this; to lay down ones life for one's friends. John 15:12-13*

I can't believe how fast the term is progressing; once again our school has been full of dazzling learning and enjoyment this week.

Reception and Year One - Learn With Me Workshops.

We have enjoyed our first 'Learn with Me' sessions this week. Thank you to parents for joining these (if you haven't signed up yet please do speak to the office). The children really enjoyed sharing their phonic skills during the workshops and we're looking forward to welcoming parents on Monday. There will be coffee, croissants and cake on arrival and time to chat with me either before or after the workshops whichever works better with other commitments. Please feel free to come in to school as soon as you have dropped your child off to enjoy our refreshments. Future 'Learn with Me' dates are on the Diary Dates at the end of the newsletter.

Trips, Visits and Experiences.

Enrichment and enjoyment is hugely important to us and ensures that our curriculum at St Leonard's is irresistible and inspires all of our children. We are currently developing plans for at least one enrichment experience per half term which will include visitors, trips and outdoor experiences in our school grounds or church. We look forward to sharing an overview of these with you at Parents' Evening. Our first whole school trip takes place on November 10th we can't wait to share photographs of our science learning with you. Thank you immensely to PTA for funding the coaches for this trip which has reduced the cost by half. At the workshop on Monday, I shared my values and vision for our school and can't wait to talk to you all about these at future workshops and events in school.

My promises and vision for our whole school family are:

- *Children at the Heart of everything we do.
- *Aspiration and inspiration.
- *High academic achievement and a love of learning.
- *Every second counts and every moment matters.
- *Beauty and wonder in every classroom, corridor, playground, school garden and heartbeat of school life.
- *Nurturing emotional, creative and social growth.
- *Excellence in everything we do for the children in our care.

As a result of these promises underpinned by our Christian vision and values:

*Every child, every family, every member of staff and friend of our community will flourish further than they ever dreamed possible as we 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn.'

We look forward to sharing the children's books and learning with you at Parents' Evening in the last week of half term.

Here's to a wonderful weekend ahead, Mrs Keay.

Headteacher: Mrs C Keay
St Leonard's First School & Nursery,
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG
Tel: 01785 712488
E-mail: office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk

Stars of the Week



Care, Love and Kindness Award



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

Year 4 parents Penkridge Middle Open Day

We have seen on Facebook that it is Penkridge Middle School open days next week. If you wish to visit with your child, you are welcome to do so but please let the office know so that your absence can be authorised. Thank you



Who would you nominate to be your Star of the Week?

Ralph - *"Dexter because he is my friend and he is kind"*

Romy - *"Marcie because she lives next door and is my friend"*

Richard - *"Elliott because he plays with me"*

Alicia - *"Willow because she is kind"*

Miles - *"Keelan because he makes pictures for me"*

Big Question:

If you say sorry but don't mean it,
does it count?

Ted: *"No, because sorry means you won't do it again, if you don't mean it you will do it again"*

Amelie: *"It means you aren't telling the truth"*

Arlo: *"If you hurt someone you must say sorry"*

Alfie: *"No, if not if you don't mean it, that's not good"*

Finley: *"No, if you don't mean it, it's not polite"*

Georgie: *"You say sorry to God the Father"*



Attendance figures

School Attendance 6th - 10th October 2025

Hedgehogs 96%

Owls 97%

Foxes 99%

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



Dancing & Gymnastics



Fishing



Cubs Investiture



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.



Next week we are learning:

'Autumn Days'

[Autumn Days When the Grass is Jewelled \(singing and lyrics\) \(StF 121 / BBC Come and Praise 4\)](#)

Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

Weekly House Point Tally

Holly



216

Oak

194

Sycamore

144

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!

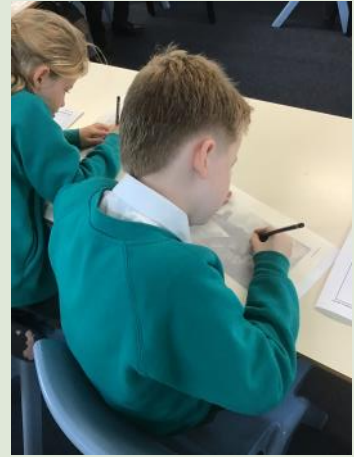
PE STARS OF THE WEEK



Learn to Love, Love to Learn



Foxes have been refining their drawing skills through detailed sketches of World War II planes





In Maths, Year 1 have been using the double-sided counters to find bonds to 10.



Owls have been learning all about colour mixing in their art lessons. They were challenged to paint a picture of a grey plant pot containing brown soil and two flowers with green stems and orange centres. They were asked to paint the petals of one flower pink and the other purple. The problem was, they were only provided with red, blue, yellow, black and white paint. What a fantastic job they did of mixing all the colours they needed!



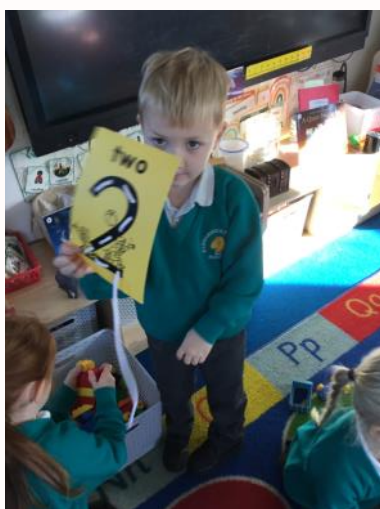
Owls have been continuing to find out about famous scientists and their discoveries. This week we found out about Charles Macintosh who invented waterproof fabric. We tested a range of materials to find out whether or not they were waterproof.



HEDGEHOGS



We have come to the end of learning about how each family is different and special to us. To finish we celebrated Grandparents Day by making Cards and picture frames for our grandparents. Reception have been deepening their knowledge of numbers 1, 2 and 3. Nursery have enjoyed making new friendships with the children in Owls when they joined them for Forest School on Wednesday. The children also loved helping to collect the slimy pumpkin seeds from our giant pumpkin.



Church Service - Thursday 23rd October

All parent/carers are welcome to join us for our Service of Thankfulness at St Leonard's church on Thursday 23rd October at 9.10am approx. Refreshments will be being served by members of the church community.



Dear God,
Thank you for our school where we
'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Thank you for all of our teachers and adults
who
help us to learn and play.

Thank you for our friends and the love we share
Inspire us to be curious and dig deeper in to
our learning.
Amen.

Reception & Year 1 Parent/carer workshops

Phonics

Monday 13th October

Mr Atkins & Miss Laing invite parent/carers to attend a Phonics workshop on Monday 13th October.

Sessions will begin at 9am and will last approximately 30minutes.

You will spend time with your child in class seeing how they learn Phonics at school. There is a maximum of 8 parents per year group, per session.

Please put your name on the sign up sheet in the entrance Hall.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Key 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.





To mark World Space Week our brilliant Art & Craft Club rocketed into action! The children designed a dazzling space scene featuring a textured, multi-shaded moon surrounded by swirling galaxies and shimmering stars - brought to life with vibrant paints and dreamy chalks. Meanwhile our youngest explorers crafted cheerful astronaut puppets, each one boldly personalised with their own smiling faces. It was a cosmic celebration of imagination, colour and wonder!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 15th October	Forest School - Year 3 & Year 4
Monday 13th October	Parent Phonics Workshop - Reception & Year 1 parents
Wednesday 22nd October	Forest School - Year 4
Wednesday 22nd October	Parents evening - sign up sheets are in the entrance hall
Thursday 23rd October	Church Celebration @ 9:10am - all parents welcome to join us refreshments available
Thursday 23rd October	Parents evening - sign up sheets are in the entrance hall
Friday 24th October	Inset Day - school closed to pupils
Monday 27th October	Half Term
Monday 3rd November	Year 3 & Year 4 - 'Mathematics with Me' and meet Mrs Keay
Tuesday 4th November	Year 4 Learn with Me Multiplication workshop & meet Mrs Keay
Friday 7th November	Wear Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Day
Monday 10th November	Whole school trip to Wolseley Wildlife
Thursday 13th November	Wear yellow/spots with your PE Kit for Children in Need
Friday 14th November	Year 2 'Writing with Me' and meet Mrs Keay
Friday 28th November	Read with Me in classrooms @ 2.50pm
Monday 1st December	Chocolate donation in ex-change for non-uniform
Friday 5th December	Christmas Tree light switch on & Carols @ 2:45pm
Friday 12th December	Save the Children wear your Christmas Jumpers
Friday 27th February	Read with Me in classrooms @ 2.50pm
Friday 1st May	Read with Me in classrooms @ 2.50pm
Thursday 18th June 2026	Sports Day
Thursday 25th June 2026	Reserve Sports Day

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 ..



facebook
Please search for

St Leonards First School
& Nursery



Our School website

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

Holiday Crash Courses available!



Learn to Swim in Staffordshire this October Half Term!

Dear Parents,

Check out our Private Lessons this October Half Term!

Book directly with your local leisure centre.

Stafford Leisure Centre – call to book on 01785 619500

3 Day 121 Crash Courses (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)

9am, 9:30am, 10am or 10:30am

£60.12 for the 3 days

1 off 121 Lesson

Monday 27 October

9am, 9:30am, 10am or 10:30am

£20.04 per session

Stone Leisure Centre – call to book on 01785 334855

Crash Course Private Lessons

Monday 27 – Friday 31 October

1:30pm, 2pm or 2:30pm

£100.20 for 5 lessons

Best regards,

Megan Brier

Area Swim Manager - Derbyshire Dales, Stafford & Stone

megan.brier@freedom-leisure.co.uk | www.freedom-leisure.co.uk



St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery

School Lane, Dunston, Stafford, ST18 9AG
01785 712488

office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk
www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs C Keay



"This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment"

9th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware that several titles in the **Spy Dogs, Spy Pup, and Spy Cat series by Andrew Cope** contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions.

We have removed copies of the book from our school library and classroom book corners.

Below are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately. Should any be the property of the school, please return them and we will dispose of them accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Keay
Headteacher



Learn to Love, Love to Learn



Copy of a letter sent home today



St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery

School Lane, Dunston, Stafford, ST18 9AG
01785 712488
office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk
www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs C Keay



"This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment"

Whole School trip to Wolseley Centre Monday 10th November

Dear Families,

All children will be visiting The Wolseley Centre on Monday 10th November for a whole day's visit to support their current learning. If your child is in Nursery and doesn't usually attend Mondays they are welcome to attend.

During the day the children will be joining in with two workshops in their classes linked to our Science curriculum:

Hedgehogs – Seasons & Rain Garden Ramblers

Owls - Everybody Needs a Rock & Seasons

Foxes - Watery Wildlife & Everybody needs a rock

All the children will come together for their lunch before separating for the afternoon workshop. Children will need to bring a packed lunch, which can be ordered from our kitchen via your SchoolGrid account. All children will need to bring a water bottle.

The cost of the trip will be £10.00 per child payable via ParentPay by **Monday 3rd November**. If your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding, the cost of the visit will be paid for from this funding. Thank you to our wonderful PTFA who have paid for the cost of the school coaches, which has reduced the cost significantly.

Please ensure that the children come to school in appropriate footwear, e.g wellies or walking boots and have a waterproof coat with hood & if you have them waterproof trousers. School shirts and jumpers should be worn with plain black joggers or trousers. We are really looking forward to our whole school trip.

Kind Regards,
Mrs C Keay
Headteacher



Whole School trip to Wolseley Centre - Monday 10th November

I give permission for my childto go to Wolseley.

I understand I need to pay the cost of £10.00 via my child's ParentPay account by 3rd November 2025.

Signed (parent/carer)Date:

Love to Learn, Learn to Love



Staffordshire
County Council



Magnets can rip holes in your child's gut

Magnets can be great fun.
But it's really dangerous
if a child swallows them.



They can attract to each
other inside the body, cut
off the blood supply and
tear holes in the gut.

A child may need major surgery
to remove them. So, keep them
away from young children. And
teach older children the risks.



**If you suspect a child has swallowed
magnets, get medical help straight away.**

Scan to learn more



 capt.org.uk

 [@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust)

 [@capt_charity](https://www.instagram.com/capt_charity)

Supported by



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

It's good
to talk!

Digital Tools

Things To Do
Activities
Where To Go

Education

A+E Services

CALL
999

Emergency
Services

NEED MORE
HELP?

Suicide
Prevention

24/7
Crisis
Centre

North
South
'Single point of access' to:
Emotional
Health and
Wellbeing
Services

Mental health support for children and young people

A guide for supporting children and young people living in Staffordshire.

Scan or click the link here,
for more information
on support. ▶



28TH - 30TH
OCTOBER

FRENCH AND SPANISH HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB



ALL THE FUN of your usual holiday clubs but with the added bonus of learning a new language in an exciting way with all your new friends!



TYPICAL DAY:

- 09:00 -10.00 - Active language
- 10.00 -10.30 - Craft/Food Task
- 10.30 -11.00 - Snack and play
- 11.00 -12.15 - Team Challenge
- 12.15 - 13.15 - Lunch Break
- 13.15 - 14.15 -Forest School
- 14.15 - 14.30 -Free Play
- 14.30 - 15.00 -Active Learning

ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY ACADEMY
RESERVOIR ROAD
HEDNESFORD
WS12 1BE



BOOK NOW at
www.lingotot.com/centre/south-staffordshire

Please contact Amy if you have any questions or queries at southstaffordshire@lingotot.com

WHY ARE WE DIFFERENT?

- Fully SEND inclusive
- Activities to suit everyone
- Ran by qualified teachers with a zest for fun




Staffordshire wildlife Trust provide free outdoor sessions to families registered with Aiming High all over the country.

Aiming High Activities Oct & Nov

with Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust



Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust

 @swtactivities

 @StaffsWildlife

 @staffswt

Aiming
High



At The Wolseley Centre

Wildlife Watch- Autumn Seed Hunt
Wildfamilies Halloween Wildplay
Wildfamilies Wild Survival
Dark Skies
Snap, crackle & campfire Wildfamilies
Wildlife Watch
Weekend Wildplay

Saturday 4 October, 10am - 12pm
Monday 27 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 28 October, 10am - 12pm
Tuesday 28 October, 6pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 29 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Saturday 1 November, 10am - 12pm
Saturday 15 November, 11am-1pm

At Ladderedge Country Park, Leek



Autumn Adventures Wildfamilies
Weekend Wildplay

Tuesday 28 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Sunday 9 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm

At Biddulph Grange Country Park, Biddulph

Halloween Wildfamilies

Tuesday 28 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm

At Fountains School, Burton-upon-Trent

Wildfamilies

Wednesday 29 October, 11am - 1pm

At Dosthill Park, Tamworth

Halloween Wildfamilies

Thursday 30 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm

 Booking essential via: eequ.org

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



The National College