



Friday Post

Friday 21st November 2025

Our School Value: Trust

Key Verse: *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*
Isaiah 26.3

Dear families,

Even though the temperatures have been cooling outside, our learning has definitely been shining brightly each and every day.

During the week, I have enjoyed being in class to see everyone's amazing learning. The children in Hedgehog class have really been enjoying their new 'school' role play area where the children have enjoyed teaching each other phonics and reading; I think we have some talented teachers of the future here at our school! When I joined Owls this week, they were learning about adjectives as well as editing and improving weak sentences. Similarly, I have enjoyed joining Foxes today to see their superb writing and understanding of fronted adverbials. We definitely have some talented authors of the future too!

A reminder that we have our first 'Read with Me' event on Friday 28th November from 2.45pm onwards where you are warmly invited to join your child in class for our own 'book snuggle' time. A reminder that we politely ask that phones are not brought in to classrooms. On the same day, our PTA, are selling sweet cones and doughnuts at 3.10pm. Please bring along some spare change on Friday 28th November to support; all funds raised support resources, trips and events for the children.

Our values focus for this half term is 'Trust.' During worship on Wednesday, we were lucky to have a visit from Chris Beardsmore who shared a story with the children about a special gold watch and how a little girl had taken it to school one day without her mum knowing. As she pulled out her glove from her pocket, the watch fell out. I'm sure the children will enjoy telling you how the story ended and how it links to our value of 'Trust.'

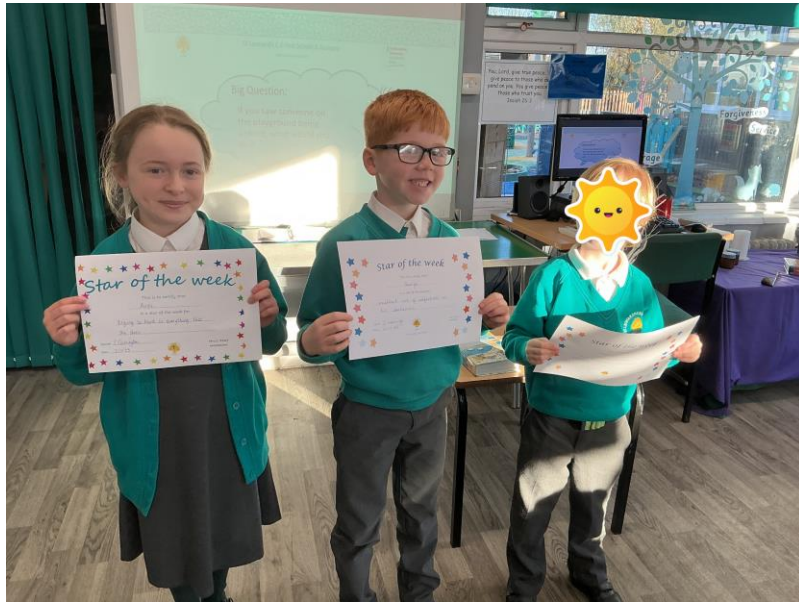
Excitingly, I also met with members of St Leonard's Church this week to arrange some dates when we can join a Sunday service to sing and share poems/prayers written by the children. There will be a letter coming home next week to see who would like to join us on Sunday 21st December for the Six Carols and Lessons Service.

We are also lucky to have been invited to perform in St Mary's Church, Stafford on Saturday 6th December from 3pm for children in Year 2 and above. Further information will be shared on Monday. We look forward to showcasing our wonderful school during the month of December.

Sending our warmth and kindness from,

Mrs Claire Keay and the team at St Leonard's C of E First School

stars of the week



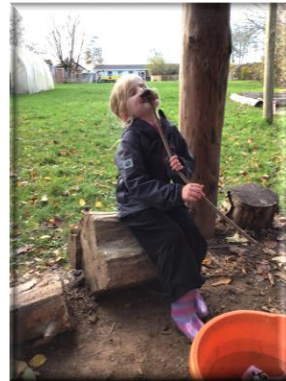
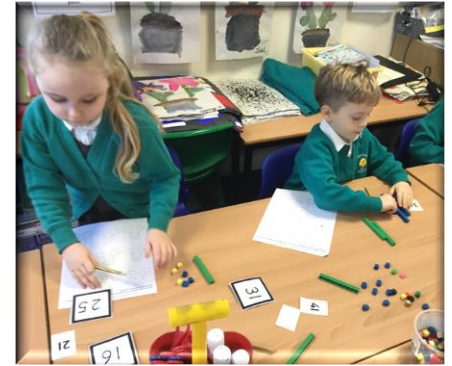
Care, Love and Kindness Award



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



In Maths, Year 1 have been building 2-digit numbers using tens and ones.



For those of you who couldn't attend the Parent Phonics Workshop, the presentation can be found on our school website - [Phonics Learn With Me](#)

St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery

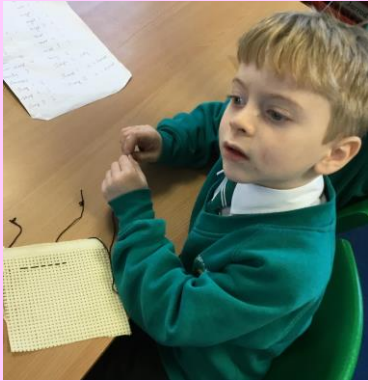
'Learn with Me
Phonics
Parent Workshop'

'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

Staffordshire University Academics Trust





Owls have been practicing their sewing skills in preparation for making fabric Christmas decorations over the coming weeks.



Dear God

Thank you for giving me the strength to tackle new things, help others and not be scared. Please help me as I take on new challenges that are important to me. Thank you for those at school and at home who encourage me and help me so that I can trust and believe in myself. Help us to bring light, joy and love to our world every day.

Amen

Big Question

If you saw someone on the playground being unkind, what would you do?

Hallie "I would tell a teacher and let them deal with it"

Elsie G "I'd tell them to stop and then tell a teacher"

Amelie "Ask if they are ok and then walk away and tell a teacher"

Miles "Tell them to stop"

Finley "I think you should ask the person if they are ok, and then tell them to stop"

Joey "Be respectful, be kind"

Art & Craft



This week in Art Club, we celebrated National Recycling Week by turning recycled materials into amazing creations! From hedgehog houses to rockets—and even the Eiffel Tower—the children's imaginations soared!



Headteacher Award



Christmas Jumper swop-shop

If you have any Christmas Jumpers that your child may have grown out of, please consider donating to other parents – simply put them on the uniform rail in the entrance hall for others to make use of.



CURRENT NURSERY PARENTS - Reception 2026

If your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2026 and 31st August 2027 then you will need to apply online for a place in our Reception class, no later than 15th January 2026. Applications should be made directly through 'Staffordshire's On-line Application System' at: [Citizen Portal - Sign in](#)

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 Mrs Keay.



Read with Me session
Friday 28th November @ 2.45pm

To encourage and spread the love of reading, parents/grandparents are welcome to join their child in their classroom for a 'read with me' session. There is no need to sign up, just arrive at 2.45pm next Friday. Don't worry if you have more than one child in school, we will be offering more of these sessions later in the academic year.

The Grumpy sheep Nativity

Children in Owls will bring a note in their reading diary about costumes for the play. If your child does NOT bring a note home it means no costume is necessary as we have one in school. Thank you Miss Laing



Coffee Morning – Wednesday 26th November @ 9am

Everyone is welcome to come along to our first Coffee Morning to meet Amy Stafford, our SENCo. This is a relaxed morning giving people space to connect, share and support one another. Please book in via the sign up sheet in the entrance hall.



Did you know that the PTFA have already supported school helping to reduce costs for all children at the recent trip to Wolseley Wildlife Centre and by subsidising the cost of the Pantomime next month. Without the support of the PTFA we would not be able to do the 'little extras'

Next month they are trying to top up their funds so they can support school more but they need a little help! Please if you can help to serve refreshments on Friday 5th December at 2:45pm or at the Nativity play on Tuesday 16th December could you let the office know.

Your help would be very much appreciated.

Thank you in advance.



This week we learnt

'Sing Christingle

[Sing Christingle – YouTube](#)

Next week we are learning:

'Away in a Manger'

[Away in a manger - BBC Teach](#)

Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

Weekly House Point Tally

Oak



128

Holly

92

Sycamore

120

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.



Achievements from outside school



Investiture at
Cubs



Gymnastics



Scouts
Remembrance
Badge



Gymnastics



Gymnastics

If your child has recently received an award they would like to share with us, eg swimming, football, dance, Beavers or Brownies etc please send them into school & we will share them during our Celebration Worship on Friday.

St Leonard's C.E First School
1862 Dunston

Christmas
Fundraiser

28TH NOVEMBER

SWEET & DOUGHNUT SALE

SWEET CONES- £2
DOUGHNUTS- £1

St Leonard's C.E First School
1862 Dunston

Christmas
LIGHT SWITCH ON

EVERYONE WELCOME

HOT DRINKS, STALLS, GAMES
AND
MUSIC FROM THE SCHOOL CHOIR.

5TH DECEMBER
2:45PM

Attendance figures

17th – 21st November 2025



Holiday forms must be handed into the office – these are available in the entrance hall.

Unless in exceptional circumstances, holidays will be counted as unauthorised absence.

Hedgehogs	94%
Owls	90%
Foxes	98%
Whole School	94%

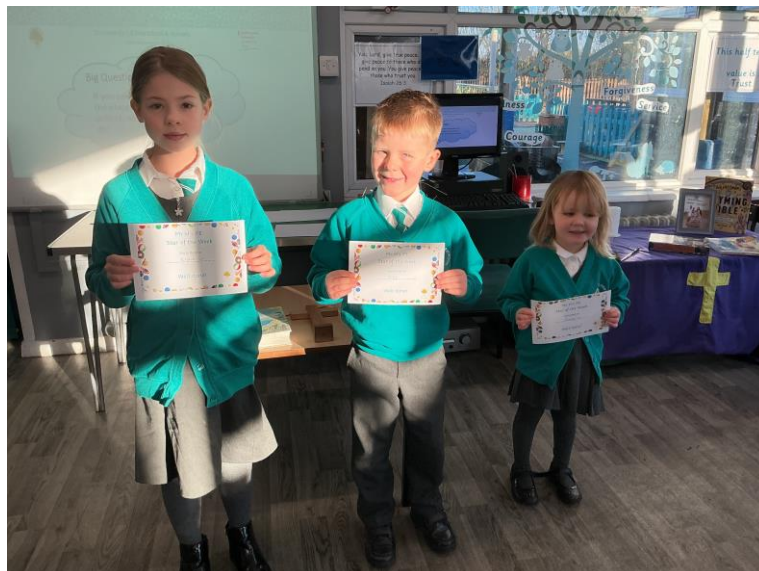
The national target for attendance, as set out in guidance from the DFE is 95%

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

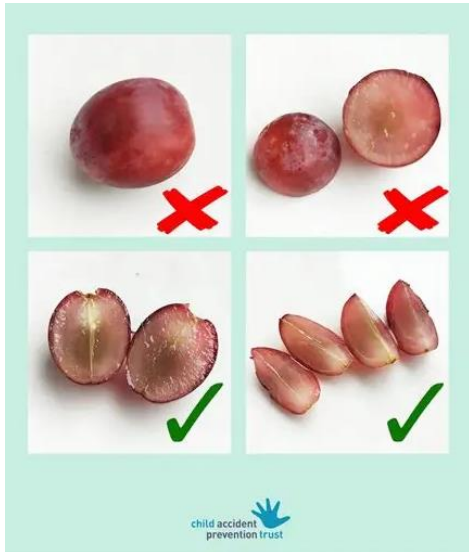
Pupils arriving late miss valuable learning time and it can contribute to them becoming anxious when they enter the classroom late.

PE STARS OF THE WEEK



No nuts please

A polite reminder to all parents that we are a 'No Nut School' and ask that parents refrain from sending children into school with nuts or items obviously containing nuts (peanut butter and Nutella for example). We do have a number of children in school who have a nut allergy and whilst we can never guarantee that children won't come into contact with nuts, these measures will help reduce risk.



Grapes & small tomatoes

Could we also ask that parents ensure that any grapes sent into school for snack or packed lunches are cut in half, as whole grapes can present a choking hazard.

Don't forget to book your school meals in advance via your school grid account before 8am.

<https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2F>

New dishes for 2025

Mega Monday

Tasty Tuesday

Roast Wednesday

Try It Thursday

Fishy Friday

	WEEK 1 Weeks starting: 1st Sept, 22nd Sept, 13th Oct 3rd Nov, 24th Nov, 15th Dec	WEEK 2 Weeks starting: 8th Sept, 29th Sept 20th Oct, 10th Nov, 1st Dec	WEEK 3 Weeks starting: 15th Sept, 6th Oct 27th Oct, 17th Nov, 8th Dec
	Margherita Pizza & Garlic Slice (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Green Beans, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Vanilla Ice Cream (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Margherita or Vegetable Supreme Pizza (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Bquette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Baked Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn, Green Beans Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Ice Cream & Fruit (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Margherita or Sweetcorn Pizza with Pasta Salad (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Green Beans, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Crispy Cake (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Crispy Chicken Dippers & Tomato Based Sauce Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Steamed Rice, Sweetcorn, Broccoli Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Morbid Sponge & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Mid Fajita Chicken, with Nachos & Steamed Rice Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Bquette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Cabbage, Carrots Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Fruit Crunch & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Macaroni Cheese (V) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Cauliflower, Peas Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Apple Cake & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Roast Chicken (GF) or Plant Based Sausages (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Raspberry Jelly & Picochees (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Sausage Stuffed Yorkshire Pudding Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Bquette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Lemon Drizzle Cake (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Roast Chicken (GF) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) New Potatoes, Carrots, Savoy Cabbage, Gravy Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Strawberry Mousse (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Homemade Beef & Vegetable Pie Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Mashed Potatoes, Savoy Cabbage, Carrots Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Winter Fruit Crumble & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Cheddar & Chicken Pasta Bake Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Bquette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Broccoli, Sweetcorn Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Jam Sponge & Custard (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	The Dolce All Day Breakfast Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Hot Brown, Baked Beans, Peas Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Fresh Fruit Salad (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt
	Breaded Fish Fingers or Vegetable Grill (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Chips (V) (GF), Peas Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF) Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Lemon Cookie (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Breaded Fish Fingers or Salmon & Sweet Potato Fishcake Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Bquette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Chips (VG) (GF), Peas Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF) Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Chocolate Cookie (VG) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt	Breaded Fish Fingers or Fishless Fingers (VG) Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Chips (VG) (GF), Peas Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF) Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread Hot Chocolate Fudge Pudding (V) Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt



For those of you who couldn't attend the Parent Times table workshop the presentation can now be found on our website - [Maths Parent Workshop](#)



St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery



Year 3 & Year 4
'Learn with Me'
Parent workshop



'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Staffordshire
University
Academies
Trust



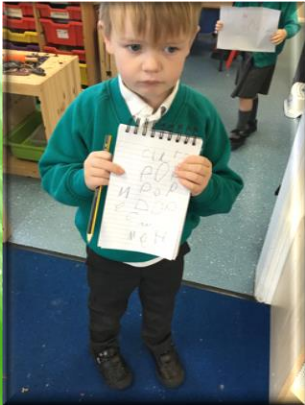
In music this half term, we are learning to find the beat and pulse of a piece of music. We used glockenspiels and worked in pairs to do this.



DT- This half term we are going to design our own Christmas Stocking. We were practising a range of stitches in preparation for making our finished piece.

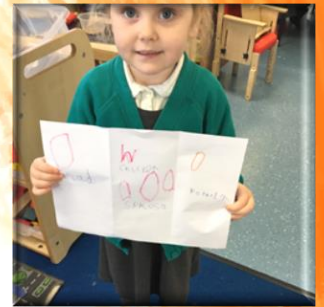


HEDGEHOGS



Hedgehog class have been busy learning about India.

They have really enjoyed exploring Indian food and making lots of recipes in the home corner. The children have been colour mixing to create the Indian flag.



Postcard from the Headteacher




Department
for Education

 Staffordshire
County Council

**HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES
AND
FOOD**

HAF^{fun} this winter

Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*. Paid places also available.

SCAN ME!



staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Wednesday 26 th November	Year 2 - Forest School
Wednesday 26 th November @9am	Coffee morning with Amy Stafford everyone welcome @ 9am
Friday 28 th November @ 2.50pm	Parents 'Read with Me' in classrooms @ 2.50pm PTFA selling sweet cones & doughnuts at 3:10pm £2 each
Monday 1 st December	Chocolate donation in ex-change for wearing non-uniform
Wednesday 3 rd December	Year 3 – Forest School
Friday 5 th December @ 2.45pm	Christmas Tree light switch on, Christingle & Carols @ 2:45pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 4 – Forest School
Thursday 11 th December	Rec-to Yr4 Flu immunisations – more info to follow
Friday 12 th December	Save the Children wear your Christmas Jumpers
Friday 12 th December	PTFA Film Night – more info to follow
Tuesday 16 th December	Whole school Nativity Play – am & pm – <i>more info to follow</i>
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 27 th February @ 2.50pm	Parents 'Read with Me' in classrooms @ 2.50pm
Friday 1 st May @ 2.50pm	Parents 'Read with Me' in classrooms @ 2.50pm
Thursday 18 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 25 th June	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.*



St Leonards First School
& Nursery



Our School website

[Home - St Leonards COFE First School](#)

Copy of a letter being sent home 21.11.2025



St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery

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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"

Christmas Pantomime – 'Rick Whittington'



Dear Families,

As part of the school's Christmas celebrations we have arranged for a travelling theatre company to perform a Christmas Pantomime. The pantomime will be 'Rick Whittington'.

This will be performed in the Village Hall during the morning of the Thursday 4th December.

The cost of this will be £6.00 per child payable via ParentPay by 1st December 2025. The cost has been subsidised by the PTFA from last years fundraising, thank you!

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding, the cost of the visit will be paid for from this funding.

If your child is in Nursery and doesn't usually attend on a Thursday, they are welcome to attend but must be dropped off at the normal school time and **collected at 10.30am.**

We are looking forward to this festive event and hope the children will have lots of fun.

Kind Regards,

Mrs C Keay

Headteacher

Learn to Love, Love to Learn

