



Friday 17th April 2026

Our School Value: Service

Key verse: *Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God. [Peter 4.10](#)*

Dear parents,

It is a true privilege to be writing this week's newsletter knowing that I will be continuing our learning journey together as the permanent Headteacher of St Leonard's C of E First School. I am so excited and feel so very lucky to be venturing forward with you all.

Teaching and headship are my heart felt passions and I will continue to work tirelessly for the children in our care here at St Leonard's. We have such a beautiful and kind whole school family; words cannot express how delighted I am.

This week, we have also been celebrating a highly successful teaching and learning review led by members of Staffordshire University Academies Trust. Sam Ashley (Vice CEO and Teaching and Learning Lead) and Sue Machin (Early Years lead) were part of our review. They were astounded with the improvements that we have been developing at St Leonard's since September. Sue Machin was so impressed with the provision in Early Years and the care that we have put in to improving the quality of resources, environment and provision which is impacting so positively on all of the children. She even took photographs to share with other schools. Thank you to all staff, the children and families for inspiring each other with our love of learning here at St Leonard's.

Another great achievement which we are so proud to announce is that following the compilation of a comprehensive bid, we have been successful in receiving the School Based Nursery Grant. This will provide us with funding to extend Hedgehog class and improve the toilet facilities. It will also allow us to provide an additional 7 nursery places. We look forward to sharing more details with you over the next few weeks about the project.

We are so excited as a whole school team for the future of our school as we continue to 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn' together.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead,

Mrs Claire Keay and our caring whole school team

Stars of the Week



Care, Love and Kindness Award



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

Funding From Businesses

If you (or family/friends) work for businesses who provide grants/funds for schools please do let us know. Miss Susan from the Forestry Commission has mentioned that many school fund additional Forest School through funding from companies such as Tesco/Co-op etc so any support with aspect like this would be of great support.



Uniform Reminders

To support our high expectations of uniform, we will be sending a text home as a reminder if clothing isn't in line with our policy. Thank you for your support as it helps all children to feel secure and the same as their peers when they wear full uniform.

Achievements from outside school



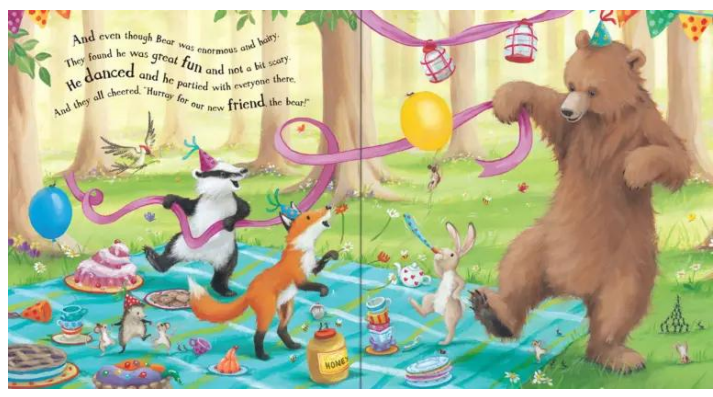
Martial Arts, Swimming, Gymnastics, Skiing

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.

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



HEDGEHOGS



Dear God,

Thank you for all of the service which blossoms at our school.
 Thank you for the kindness and care that we have for each other.
 Thank you for the personal qualities which make us unique and special.
 Help us to flourish as individuals and a whole school community where all of our personalities can shine brightly for who we are.



Amen

Pray

Weekly House Point Tally

Sycamore



98

Holly

66

Oak

62

Ordering of school meals

We kindly ask that ALL parents and carers order their child's school lunch **every day** – this can be done in advance if preferred. Please note if your child has an appointment in a morning but will be needing a school meal then let the office know. If a child is off school poorly, then any ordered meals are cancelled otherwise the school has to pay.

Thank you for your support.

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>

Dinner Times

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

VILLAGE SUMMER

New Menu!

Week 1

13th Apr, 4th May,
25th May, 15th Jun, 6th Jul

Hand Stretched Margherita or Vegetable Pizza (V) (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Garlic Silce, Green Beans, Sweetcorn
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Strawberry Ice Cream (V) *
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

All Day Breakfast
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Hash Brown, Baked Beans, Peas
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Fresh Fruit Salad (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Roast Chicken (GF)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

New Potatoes, Carrots, Savoy Cabbage, Gravy
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Chocolate Cookie (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Pasta Bar (V) (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Sweetcorn, Carrots
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Summer Fruit Puff & Custard (V) *
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Breaded Fish Fingers or Crispy
 Crumbed Vegetable Grill (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Chips, Peas, Beans, Ketchup
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Chocolate Banana Silce (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Week 2

20th Apr, 11th May,
1st Jun, 22nd Jun, 13th Jul

Hand Stretched Margherita Pizza (V) (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn, Green Beans
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Strawberry Mousse (V) *
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Chicken & Coconut Curry (GF)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Rice, Green Beans, Cauliflower
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Red Velvet Brownie (V)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Sausage Stuffed Yorkshire Pudding
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Raspberry Jelly & Peaches (V) (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Pasta Bar (V) (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Broccoli, Carrots
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Fruit Crumble & Ice Cream (V) *
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Breaded Fish Fingers or Quorn Dippers (VG)
 Summer Salmon Salad (GF)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Chips, Peas, Beans, Ketchup
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Lemon Cookie (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Week 3

27th Apr, 18th May,
8th Jun, 29th Jun, 20th Jul

Hand Stretched Margherita or Pineapple Pizza (V) (VG)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

New Potatoes, Spaghetti Hoops, Green Beans, Sweetcorn
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Ice Cream & Fruit (V)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

* Crispy Chicken or Quorn Dippers (VG) *
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Chips, Sweetcorn, Broccoli, Ketchup
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Ginger Flapjack Cookie (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Roast Chicken (GF)
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Savoy Cabbage, Gravy
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

Watermelon Wedges (VG)
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Spaghetti Bolognese
 Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
 Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)

Cauliflower, Carrots
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Chocolate Crunch & Custard (V) *
 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)

Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Baked Beans
 Fresh Salad Selection, Fresh Sliced Bread

* Manchester Tart (V) *
 Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

LOCALLY SOURCED FRESH PRODUCE

BREAD AVAILABLE DAILY

Attendance figures

13th – 17th April 2026



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	96%
Owls	97%
Foxes	98%
Whole School	97%

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





This week we have been learning:

'Give me oil in my lamp'

[Give me oil in my lamp | Christian Songs](#)

[For Kids](#)

Next week we are learning:

'Together as a family'

[All together as a family - BBC Teach](#)

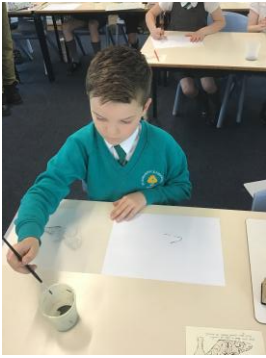
Click the link above to find the lyrics & music



This week, Class Owls enjoyed their first Forest School session of the half term on Wednesday. The children took part in wood whittling and created their own 'Bog Baby habitats', activities which link closely to this term's Science project.



Foxes have been introduced to a new artist – Andy Warhol! The children recreated one of his designs using the 'blotted line' technique and had great fun exploring this creative style.



Postcard from the Headteacher



Important Dates and INFORMATION

Summer term	
Monday 20 th April	The Book Bus
Wednesday 22 nd April	Amy Stafford, Senco in school
Friday 1 st May @2.50pm	Parents 'Read with Me' in classrooms
Thursday 7 th & Friday 8 th May	Foxes @ Laches Wood
Friday 22 nd May	Church service – everyone welcome
Monday 1 st June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 18 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 25 th June	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 17 th July	End of Year Church Service – everyone welcome



FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School with Miss Susan this $\frac{1}{2}$ term is Class Owls – please come to school in suitable clothing that might get muddy!



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.



St Leonards First School
& Nursery



Our School website

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

Parenting Support Sessions

Free support sessions for parents in Staffordshire

Our sessions are a welcoming space to talk through any worries, learn more about our service and find out what other support is available.

Challenges we support with:

- Behaviour
- Family relationships
- Special educational needs
- Emotional wellbeing
- Family routines
- Housing and finances



These sessions take place Thursday mornings at various locations across Staffordshire

For bookings and more details, please visit sctsp.org.uk/community-family-support

School/organisation based sessions are available to book separately
Please contact daniellebutcher.fss@sctsp.org.uk for more details

Early years food choking hazards



Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	Advice
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	Advice
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	Advice
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	Advice
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	Advice
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/>

and How to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>

Mental health support for children and young people

Follow the **SAFE** steps for mental health support to find the right help at the right time.

S

Self help

Advice and signposting to wellbeing activities and digital tools

A

Ask for advice and help

Young people's wellbeing services and support

F

Fast specialist support

Specialist mental health support for young people

E

Emergency services

Mental health crisis and urgent help



Visit staffordshire.gov.uk/imhere



The fundraising challenge for little explorers!

Walk 3km (the same distance a hedgehog can walk in one night) and raise money for wildlife!

30 March – 30 April 2026

wildlifetrusts.org/hedgehog-walk



Will you join Carter and Violet?



Going on a Hedgehog Walk is as easy as 1,2,3!

- 1 Sign up & download your activity pack bursting with Timmy Time fun – posters, activity sheets and tracking timelines!
- 2 Tell lots of people about your fundraising challenge and ask them to sponsor you.
- 3 Walk, wheel, crawl or roll 3km between Monday 30 March and Thursday 30 April – all in one go or in stages!

The donations children collect will help care for wildlife in Staffordshire; **every £27** raised could help a local child engage with nature through play or **every £50** raised could help care for a local nature reserve for a day.

"We were so inspired to join in with the Hedgehog Walk last year after realising that, during Carter and Violet's lifetimes, hedgehogs could go extinct. We can't wait to take part again this year!"

Laura ~ Carter & Violet's mum



Carter ~ aged six
& Violet ~ aged four

Please tag us in your photos!