



Friday Post

Friday 4th September 2026

Thankfulness | Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **Thessalonians 5.18**



Dear parents,

What an amazing first two days at school we've had. It has been so lovely to welcome the children and our whole school family back. I hope that our new families already feel at home – please do ask if you have any queries. Our staff team are truly wonderful and are always here to help.

As we have only been back at school for just two days here's just a few updates and reminders for the term ahead.

I have really enjoyed hearing all about the children's summer break and seeing the beaming smiles from everyone. Our value this term is 'Thankfulness' and the children have been showing their thanks for our refurbished toilets and classrooms through the pride and care they are taking in looking after our new areas. We are so lucky to be such a respectful, kind and caring school community who, 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn.'

During worship this week, we have been exploring our school motto and the book 'The Dot.' Here is a recorded version if you would like to explore as a family. The Dot

The story teaches us that nothing is impossible if we believe in ourselves. The children have enjoyed telling me all about times when they have shown courage and overcome their worries. The support from families, teachers and friends shone through in our discussions too.

Family Home learning Challenge: Enjoy designing a 'dot' as a family which represents your joint creativity! Children and staff will be creating dot art work in school too and we would love to represent our whole school community through the beauty of art and creation as part of our hall display. This is in line with our 'Ascetics' Spiritual pathway.



Sensates: Loving God with the senses		Activities that involve any of the senses Visual imagery Art, story, oracy Opportunities to discuss what it feels like to touch or use a particular material
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Artist in Residence

On the theme of creativity, I am so very excited to announce that this year we will be working with an artist three times throughout the year, and just like the character in 'Dot,' we will be holding our very own art exhibition and choir showcase the week after working with our 'artist in residence'. This will provide the children with wonderful memories to treasure. We wholeheartedly agree with Albert Einstein who said, "Every child is an artist." As a school, we recognise that all aspects of creative learning play a crucial role in our community's wellbeing. The arts also support the children's social, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic and spiritual growth. We can't wait!

Date for the diary: Parents will be invited to St Leonard's Church on Monday 5th October to view our art and hear the singing from our choir. Parents are free to attend from 3.10pm until 5pm (Choir will be singing between 3.10pm and 4pm).

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead, Mrs Keay and our incredible St Leonard's team.

Important changes to Free School Meals

The government has announced changes to the entitlement criteria for free school meals from **September 2026**. From then there will be two different types of free school meals, known as 'targeted' and 'expanded'.

Families who receive any of the following are eligible for '**targeted**' free school meals -

- Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit



Families in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will be entitled to '**expanded**' free school meals.

A free school meal cannot be provided under 'expanded' criteria before 1 September 2026.

Please check to see if you could be eligible, by clicking the link below.

To apply under 'targeted' or 'expanded' free school meals please [Apply for Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)

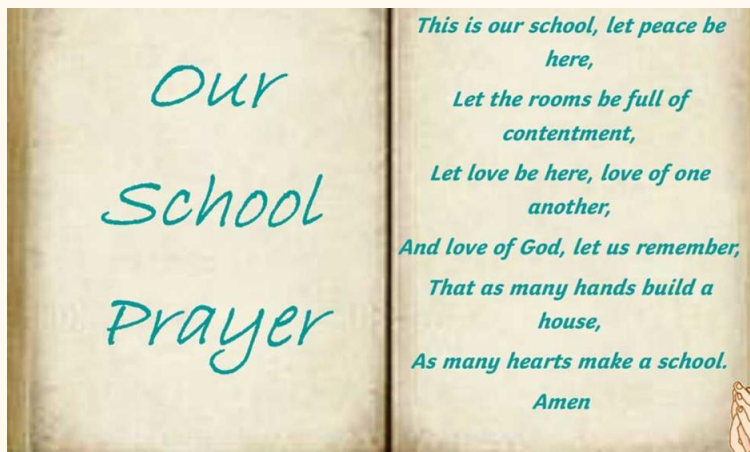
If you have applied and have confirmation that you are eligible, please provide the evidence screen to the school office.



We hope you have had a wonderful summer. At Stafford library we have been so busy signing up children to the summer reading challenge and putting on a whole feast of events and activities.

We have had over 1500 children sign up to the challenge in our libraries just within the Stafford Borough and the rest of the county is looking very healthy as well.

We are asking for all children who started the challenge to pop into see us to complete and get that all important medal and certificate, **the challenge closes on 14th September** so still plenty of time to complete.



We have been learning our School Hymn
This Little Light of Mine
Click the link below to hear the music:
["This Little Light Of Mine"](#)



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.



Helen Ashwood is our Safeguarding representative on our LAC. She supports the school in ensuring that Safeguarding is a priority.



Please search for
**St Leonards First School
& Nursery**



Our School website

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

Last call for any music lesson bookings, these sessions are for children in Reception & above.

Dear Parents

Rock It Instrument Lessons 2026-27

Following the success of the guitar, drum, keyboard and steel pan workshop, we are delighted to announce that school music lessons in class and music tuition will be led by 'Rock it Music'.

This will mean that we will also be able to offer more instrumental lessons. We will be offering lessons in Piano/Keyboard, Drums or Guitar. Lessons will cost £190 for the year which equate to £5 a lesson. This will need to be paid for in advance and will be non-refundable. Payment will be made via ParentPay in September and you will be required to pay by Friday 11th September 2026.

Tuition will be in small groups and lessons will last about 20 minutes, so they won't miss much time from class.

If you would like your child to have this fantastic opportunity to learn a musical instrument, please complete the form below and return it to the office by Tuesday 30th June.

Best wishes

Mrs Keay
Headteacher



Rock It Instrument Lessons 2026-27

I would like my child to receive tuition for:

Piano/Keyboard

☐

Drums

☐

Guitar

☐

I am aware that there is a charge, which I agree to pay, of £190 for the year for this tuition which is payable in advance in September 2026 and is non-refundable. £190 is for one instrument only.

Parent's signature:

Date:

Child's name: _____

Please return to the office by Tuesday 30th June 2026 to secure a place.

Emergency 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



Lost Property

Please may we remind you to name **EVERY** piece of school clothing, shoes, drinks bottles and lunch boxes. A permanent marker on a washing label works just as well as sew in or iron on tags.

Drinks Bottles

Please make sure your child has a drinks bottle at school every day.

It is important that they are clearly marked with the child's name and that they can easily identify them so that they don't drink from the wrong bottle. As part of the schools healthy eating policy, bottles should only contain water.



Illness / Absence



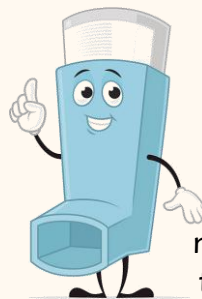
If your child is unwell please notify the school office before 8.45am. A message can be left on the answer machine if the telephone isn't answered. It is part of our Safeguarding procedures to contact you if your child isn't in school by 9:15am and we haven't heard from you. If your child has a medical appointment during the day please bring your appointment card to the school office so we can mark the absence as 'authorised' alternatively email us a copy of your medical letter or screen shot of an appointment date and time.

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 your 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.

Medication



Don't forget if you took your child's medication home before the holidays you will need to return it to school. A form will need to be completed and medication should be handed over to the office staff. Please do **NOT** leave any medication in a child's bag. Thank you for your co-operation



School dinners

All dinners **MUST** be ordered before **8am** in a morning via your SchoolGrid account. If you have forgotten your password, please contact the school office who can send you a re-refresh. If your child has any food allergies/intolerances these must be logged on to your school grid account so Miss Tina in the kitchen knows what your child can not eat.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 14 th September	Academy Photography
Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	Back to school
Friday 18 th December	School closes at 1:30pm
Monday 21 st December	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 th January	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 th January	Back to school
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February	Back to school



After School Care

If you require any after school care for September please send your booking to the school office asap. Bookings should be made a month in advance to ensure that we have correct staffing levels, we may not always be able to accommodate on the day bookings. Nursery aged children are now able to access after school care until 5pm. Thank you

Before School Care

Before school care is now available from 7:45am there is no need to book unless you are in Nursery who MUST be pre-booked to ensure correct supervision is available.



Clubs start on Monday 7th September. Please speak to the office if your child would like to join in with any of the following:

Monday - Choir
 Tuesday – Musical Theatre
 Wednesday – Sewing
 Thursday – Multisports
 Friday - Dance

Sports clubs are all weather and children will be expected to have appropriate kit for this e.g. joggers, jumper, trainers suitable for outdoors, waterproof coat.

CONTACT US

Telephone: 01785 712488

Email: office@st-leonards-dunston,staffs,sch,uk

The office is manned from:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:15pm

Friday: 8:30am – 3:15pm

Copy of a letter emailed home this week

Dear parents,

We hope that you've had a wonderful summer break.

We cannot wait to welcome everyone back to school on Thursday as we 'Learn to Love and Love to Learn,' together.

During the summer, our school has undergone major refurbishment work with vast improvements to our whole school environment. This aligns with our ambitious pursuit to provide excellence in every aspect of our school.

Hedgehog Class is progressing well - the floor to ceiling windows which have been installed are going to be wonderful! Whilst Hedgehog class is being finalised, Mrs Thompson has carefully created an inspiring classroom in our main school hall. All of the furniture and resources look very much at home! Hedgehog's new classroom should be ready by the end of September (approximately).



Owls Classroom is fully finished with new carpet, new heating and air conditioning as well as the new toilet facilities. We now have 4 toilets and a changing facility within Hedgehog and Owls mobile. As you can see from the photographs, the learning environments have been totally transformed!



The very old toilets in the main building have also been refurbished with four new toilets for the girls and boys. We can't wait to hear what the children think about the improvements.

A few updates for the start of term on Thursday:

Uniform, Dinners, Book Bags and Water Bottles

- Children should come to school in normal school uniform on Thursday and Friday (there is no PE or Outdoor Learning (in the Forest) this week).
- We kindly ask that children in Hedgehog and Owls class **only bring in a school book bag** (rather than ruck sacks/other large bags). With the reconfiguration and refurbishments, Hedgehog and Owls cloakrooms are now based in classrooms. This means that there just isn't the space for large bags.
- ***Please make sure that dinners are booked in advance (by 8am at the latest please).***



Week Beginning 7th September

Excitingly, weekly PE, outdoor learning in the Forest and Dance lessons will **start next week** for each class.

Children to arrive at school in PE kit and Outdoor Learning kit on the following days from next week (7th September)

Class	PE Kit	Outdoor Learning (in the Forest) Kit	Pumps or trainers for dance
Hedgehogs	Thursday	Friday	Friday
Owls	Thursday	Friday	Friday
Foxes	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday

****Reminder – No earrings on these days for your child's safety.**

Outdoor Learning Clothing:

- Long leggings or jogging bottoms (suitable for Outdoor learning in the Forest and dance) this prevents accidents
- T-shirt and plain jumpers (no logos please)
- Pumps or trainers
- Waterproof coat with a hood (the weather can change throughout the day!)
- Wellies – please send into school from Monday 7th September to store on welly racks as each year group will be taking part in Outdoor Learning/Forest School every week of the school year.
- Winter – hats and gloves. Summer – sun hats/caps.

Please ensure that all school uniform including wellies and bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name so that we can return items to the children and reduce the large amount of lost property.

Arrival and Collection:

Due to some areas of the playground still needing to be tarmacked and Hedgehog class being based in the hall, we are introducing some adjusted arrival and collection procedures to reduce congestion and to support everyone's safety. We will review these regularly but in principle, the following approach will support with smooth arrival and collection procedures.

Hedgehog Class (Nursery and Reception)

Hedgehog Morning Routines

- Enter through the main school entrance foyer
- Mrs Thompson will greet you from the front door.
- **Hedgehog Afternoon Routines**
- Parents to collect from the main school entrance foyer.

Owls Class (Years One and Year Two)

Owls Morning Routines:

- Children to walk around to the main playground.
- Miss Laing/Miss Forrest will greet the children by the new gate.
- Farewells will take place at the gate area – as cloak rooms are now in classrooms rather than by the door.

Owls Afternoon Routine

- Please wait in front of Owls Class (via the main playground/new gate) on the new tarmac area.
- Teachers will dismiss from the classroom door/new ramp.

Foxes Class (Years Three and Four)

Morning Routines:

- Children to walk through the main gate and walk straight ahead to their classroom.
- Mrs Carrington will be on the door to greet you.

Afternoon Routines.

- Children to be collected from the gate by Foxes Class.

If you have children in more than one class, please collect your youngest child first.

Staff will be on gates and the playground to support so that everyone knows where to drop off and collect.

Our new school environment is just the start to so many wonderful achievements and memories for our year ahead. We are so excited for the new term.

Look forward to welcoming our whole school family back tomorrow.

Best wishes,

Mrs Keay and our whole school team