



Friday Post

Friday 16th October 2026

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



Dear parents,

Joy, fun and friendship are three words to summarise our wonderful week here at St Leonard's. It was so lovely to hear about Foxes trip to Hay House Farm and with so much exploration in the countryside on our doorstep. The children enjoyed teaching me all about arable farming! We have our very own Harvest Festival next Thursday; we warmly welcome families to join us at St Leonard's Church. Donations will be shared with the Food Bank at Rising Brook Church.

Alison Lloyd (our Education Mental Health Practitioner) has visited us in school today to meet children over lunch. She was so impressed with our improved lunch time play provision and seeing the children enjoy activities such as a mindful colouring, lego, sand/water play, mud kitchen, den building, small world 'dinosaur' play as well as a new ball game which Mr H taught us on Thursday. Alison also saw our new 'PALS' – (Play and Learning Squad) in action too. She was so impressed and commented:

"It was lovely to see the new play areas at lunch time. The impact on the children and their ability to work together is superb. It was so calm on the playground and the children's manners are excellent. It is wonderful to see the interaction between the younger and older children. I can see such a big difference at St Leonards."

Members of the Education Mental Health team will be at Parents' Evening next week with leaflets and ideas to support children's well-being.

Excitingly, snuggle baskets have been re-launched today. The children have suggested ideas to make our 'reading' baskets even more special for this year. Baskets have more books to enjoy, crayons as well as a 'Special' book for children to add pictures, photos, quotes or writing linked to their reading. Over the year, every child will have the chance to enjoy our new snuggle baskets.



For this year, we have new book-marks and stationery for our 'Reading Rocket' prizes which the children helped to choose. A reminder that **children should read** to an adult **four times** a week. For every 20 reads, there is a prize reward.

Today, I had the pleasure to meet with Worship Council, and the team are very excited to be leading class worship and prayers. They have also written a new prayer for us to enjoy at the end of 'Leaf Team Worship' which will start next Wednesday. The children are looking forward to joining in mixed year groups more regularly and to build friendships as a team.

Wishing everyone a snuggly weekend ahead,

Mrs Claire Keay and the superb St Leonard's team

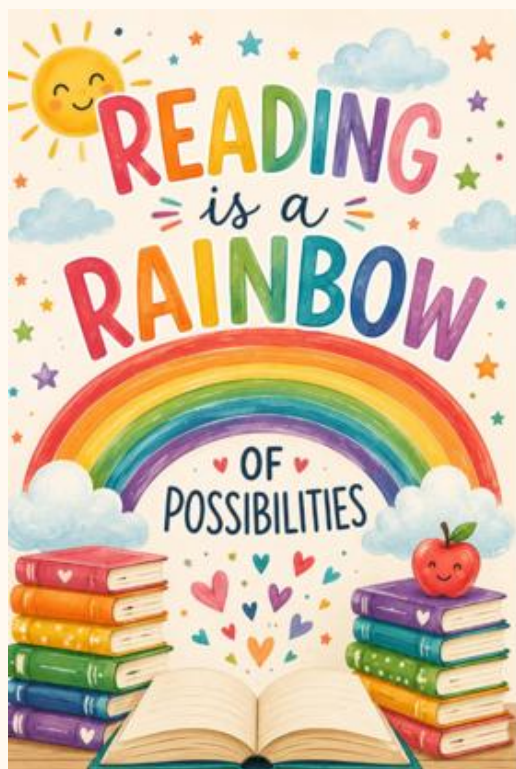
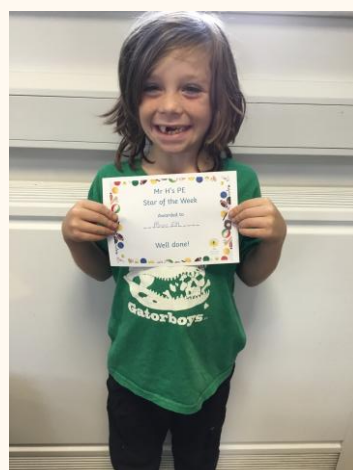
Stars of the Week



Care, Love and Kindness Award



PE STARS OF THE WEEK



Reading at St Leonard's

A reminder that children read at least 4 times per week. The magic of books enables children to flourish in so many ways.

Notice of price increase.

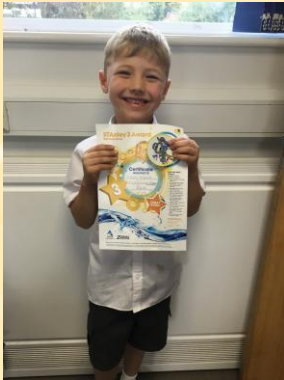
Please note after $\frac{1}{2}$ term there will be an increase in the cost of Before & After School Care and clubs for children in Reception & above. (Nursery charges were increased in September)

The Ark

	7:45am 8:35am	3:10pm 4pm	4pm 5pm
Nursery	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
Reception Year 4	£4.00 Siblings £3.00	£4.00	£4.00

Bookings for After School Care must be made in advance.
Children can just turn up for Before School Care if in Reception & above,
Nursery children must be pre-booked for Before School Care.

Achievements from home



Swimming



Swimming
Dancing



Kickboxing



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.



Big Question: Would you rather be 6cm or 6m tall?

Rupert "I love our school because every person here likes playing together and learning"

Evie "I like playing with my friends"

Matilda "One of the most amazing things is that we have play & lunchtime and I get to play with my friends"

Arlo: "I'd like to be 6 metres tall so I could see God."

Ruby: "6 metres because you could reach things from high cupboards and places."

Amelie: "I'd like to be 6cm because I would look cute and I could see in the bottom of cupboards."



Class Hedgehogs had a brilliant week in outdoor learning, turning their classroom ideas into real-life creations. Our young designers used natural materials to build cosy little homes for their *friends of the forest*, thinking carefully about shapes, stability and materials. They even explored new vocabulary, including 'imagination' and 'waterproof'.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thursday 22nd October
9.15am

St Leonard's Church,
Dunston

EVERYONE WELCOME



We welcome any donations for
Rising Brook Food Bank

Food Bank items required

- Tinned meals (eg curry, meatballs, corned beef, tuna)
- Long-life milk
- Tinned or packet potato and tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit, jelly, rice pudding
- Tinned spaghetti, ravioli, beans, soup
- Sugar, coffee, tea
- Cereal



Our Weekly Home Learning

'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Hedgehogs - Reception

Date: Friday 16th October

Return Date: Thursday 22nd October

Thank you for all of your hard work at school and at home.
This is helping your learning to flourish.

Activities



Daily reading

Read at least 4 times a week to an adult.
Please record this in your reading journal.

This week we have reviewed the phase 2 sounds we have learnt so far.

Here is a video modelling the pure sounds we use in phonics.

[ELS: Phase 2 pronunciation](#)



Maths:

We have been learning about capacity this week, we have explored filling containers and discussed which holds the 'most' and 'least'. Have a go at comparing capacity using containers in your home!



Other:

We are beginning to redevelop our early years outdoor area to create an exciting, engaging space where our children can explore, investigate, build, create and learn through play.

We have some exciting ideas for our new outdoor provision, including developing a maths area where children can explore numbers, counting, measuring and problem-solving; creating a nature area where children can discover wildlife, grow plants and develop a love of the natural world; and designing a farm shop role-play area where children can use their imaginations, develop their communication and language skills.

We would love to hear from our families! If you have any ideas, skills, materials or resources that could help us bring our vision to life, we would be incredibly grateful for your support.





This week, we have been enjoying the story "In Every House on Every Street" and exploring what makes a house a home. We have discussed different types of homes, looking at where people live and discovering the different homes that animals need.

In our creative learning, we have explored the work of artist Paul Klee, using shapes and printing techniques to recreate our own colourful houses. We have been experimenting with shapes, patterns and colours to create our own unique artwork.





Our Weekly Home Learning
'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Owls
Date: 16.10.26
Return date: 06.11.26

Thank you for all of your hard work at school and at home.
 This is helping your learning to flourish

Activities	
	Daily reading: Read at least 4 times a week. Write a sentence about something you do during the weekend/half-term, Remember that a simple sentence must contain a subject followed by a verb. <i>Remember reading brings joy and makes you a great writer too.</i>
	Maths: Y2 - How many different ways can you find to partition 20 sweets between 3 children? E.g $8 + 5 + 7 = 20$ Y1 - Roll a pair of dice and write an addition statement, e.g $3 + 2 = 5$
	Other: Art: Find out about the artist Andy Goldsworthy who uses natural materials in the outdoors. Make your own artwork using natural materials e.g leaves, stones, twigs. Bring in a photo of your art work.



A trip to Hay House Farm, Dunston





Our Weekly Home Learning

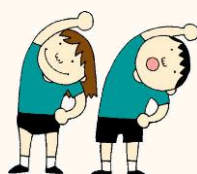
'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Foxes
Date: 16.10.26
Return date: 22.10.26

Thank you for all of your hard work at school and at home.

This is helping your learning to flourish

Activities	
	Daily reading Read at least 4 times a week. Don't forget to write this in your reading diary too! <i>Remember reading brings joy and makes you a great writer too.</i>
	Number bonds/Timetables: TT Rockstars- We have a battle on which ends next Friday! Who will be our champions this week? <i>Fluency with number bonds and times tables make you a mighty mathematician.</i>
	Spellings: Y3- See Reading Diary Y4- See Reading Diary Spellings will be checked on Thursday due to having Inset on Friday.
	Other: Maths (in homework book) linked to this weeks learning of subtraction (without exchange/borrowing) using the column method. Top Tip: Remember to always start in the ones column!



Cross Country – Monday 19th October

If you are entering the Cross Country competition you need to arrive at Marshbrook First School, Penkridge by 4pm. Please wear your school PE kit and bring a drinks bottle.



Owls looked at a range of sculptures by the artist Andy Goldsworthy.
Then they used clay to make similar sculptures.



Free School Meals

We want to make sure every child gets the support and healthy meals they are entitled to during the school day.

What has changed?

From September 2026, Free School Meal eligibility has expanded. Under current government guidelines, families receiving Universal Credit can qualify for school meals.

- **Targeted Free School Meals:** Available to households on Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of **£7,400 or less** (plus other qualifying benefits like Income Support or Child Tax Credit). *Qualifies for extra Pupil Premium funding.*
- **Expanded Free School Meals:** Covers school meals for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit above the £7,400 threshold.

Why should you apply?

- **Financial support:** Save money on school lunches and ensure your child receives a hot, healthy meal.
- **Pupil Premium funding:** If you qualify for Targeted FSM, the school receives extra funding (Pupil Premium) to spend on learning support, resources, and wellbeing activities for the students. Your child will not be treated any differently.

How to apply

- You can check your eligibility and submit an application online via [Apply for Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council](#).

Even if you are unsure whether you qualify, we strongly encourage you to submit a check. If you get a confirmed result please let us know.

Many thanks, The Office Team

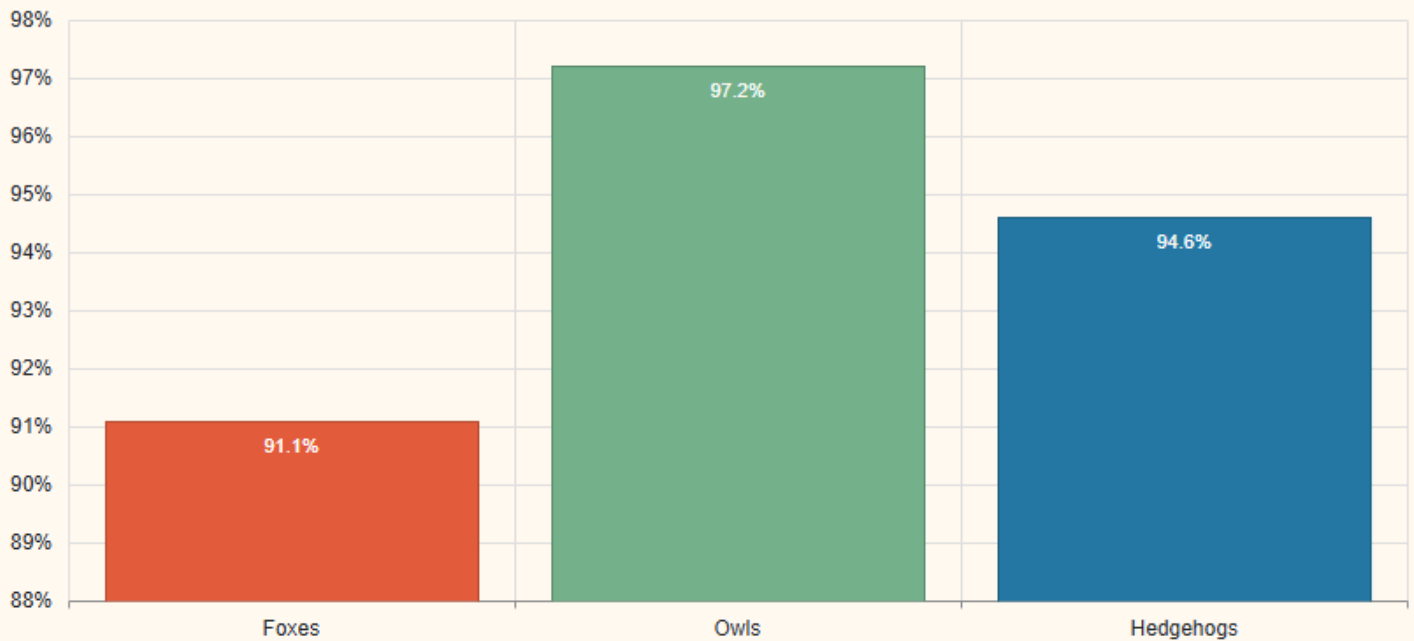


Don't forget to add book your
child's school meal onto
SchoolGrid before 8am in a
morning.
You can order a whole term
in advance if it's easier!

Attendance figures

Tutor Group

Attendance



WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 94%



We have been learning:

This Little Light of Mine
"This Little Light Of Mine"

Harvest Samba
Harvest Samba (Cabbages and Greens)
[with lyrics for congregations]

Worship Council Prayer

Dear God,

Let us work together in our 'Leaf Teams,'
To bring happiness to our school;
Guide us through any lonely times;
Bringing us back together always.

With love and connection bring us hope and
joy.

Amen



Pray



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.



Postcard from the Headteacher



Headteacher Award



Dates for the Diary

Monday 19 th October - 4pm	Foxes - Cross Country Competition @ Marshbrook
Tuesday 20 th October	Hedgehogs Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 21 st October	Hedgehogs Parents Evening 2.30 3.10pm
Wednesday 21 st October	Owls & Foxes Parents Evening 3.20 5.30pm
Thursday 22 nd October – 9:15am	Join us at St Leonard's Church for our Harvest & Values Service
Thursday 22 nd October	Owls & Foxes Parents Evening 3.20 5.30pm
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 13 th November	Children in Need – money line
Monday 16 th November	Anti-bullying day come to school in Odd Socks!
Tuesday 17 th November	Open Day for Nursery 2026 & Reception 2027 intake
Friday 20 th November 8:50am	Year 1 parents – join your child for Phonics
Monday 23 rd November 8:50am	Reception parents – join your child for Phonics
Friday 27 th November 8:50am	Foxes parents – Multiplication check workshop
Friday 4 th December	Christmas tree light switch on & carols
Monday 7 th December	Pantomime
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

CONTACT US

Telephone: 01785 712488

Email: office@st-leonards-Dunston.staffs.sch.uk

The office is manned:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:15pm

Friday: 8:30am – 3:15pm

Emails received after these times will be responded to the next working day.

SPORTS CAMPS!

IN STAFFORD



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JOIN US EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY!

October Half-Term | Christmas | February Half-Term | Easter | May Half-Term | Summer

AGES 5-16

ALL Abilities Welcome!



8AM - 5PM

Flexible Bookings Available

FROM £26/DAY

Tax-Free Childcare
& Childcare Vouchers
Accepted ✓

AWARD-WINNING HOLIDAY CAMPS

at Stafford Grammar School, ST18 9AT
"The BEST facilities in Stafford!"



DISCOUNTS:

10% Early Bird
10% Siblings
20% Full-Week

YOU CHOOSE YOUR SPORTS!



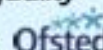
"Best Multi-Sport Holiday Camps
Provider 2026 - Midlands"

2026 Global Excellence Awards



"Children are extremely happy, safe
and welcomed at this high-quality
setting."

Ofsted Inspection - 2026



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01675 488 494

EarlyBird Plus Programme

Has your child received an autism diagnosis?

Join the National Autistic Society's EarlyBird Plus programme delivered in Staffordshire by the Autism Inclusion Team to understand more about autism and how you can support your child.

Meet other parents and share experiences on our six-week programme. Designed for parents and carers of autistic children aged 5 to 10 years, we can help you understand autism and support your child, including:

- understanding autism
- communication
- understanding autistic experiences
- supporting daily living
- health and wellbeing
- connections.

"This has made a real difference to me. In general, life-changing."
Parent

Staffordshire Autism
Inclusion Team will be
delivering this course at:

Dates:

05.10.26

12.10.26

19.10.26

Lane Green First School,
Bilbrook Road, Bilbrook,
Wolverhampton, WV8 1EU

02.11.26

09.11.26

16.11.26

10am – 1pm tea and coffee
provided.

You will need to be able to
commit to attending all six
sessions

For more information and to register for this free course please contact:

kate.perry@staffordshire.gov.uk



**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS & GPs**



CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance





**AVAILABLE
7 DAYS A WEEK**



9:00am – 10:00pm



CALL NHS 111 →

OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E



STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.





OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP



Mental health advice and guidance



Risk assessment support



Clinical support and intervention



Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate



AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.



NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E





Midlands Partnership University
Foundation Trust

Together we are making life better for our communities

HAF fun this half term

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

SCAN ME!



Bookings open on Monday 5 October at 4pm

staffordshire.gov.uk/haf

Parenting Support Sessions

Free 1:1 advice & guidance 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