



Friday Post

Friday 9th October 2026

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



Dear families,

We've had another memorable week at St Leonard's where our love of learning really has shone through during every second of every day.

Inspirational Home Learning

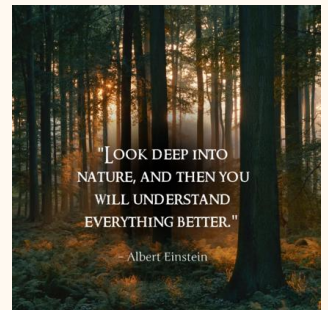
Thank you so much to the children for all of the 'Noah's Ark' themed project work. We look forward to developing our 'Spirituality' display in the entrance this year which we will add to each week. Thank you to Elliot (Owls) and Elliot (Foxes) for their impressive Noah's arks.

This week's spiritual home-link project links to nature. Please send in photographs, pictures, prayers or reflections linked to autumn days and being outside. We invite families to enjoy exploring signs of nature and 'Star gazing' together. For each sign of autumn or star that you see, you are invited to say 'Thank you' for the things that you are grateful for. This links into this term's value of 'Thankfulness.'

Naturalists:
Loving God outdoors



Opportunities to be outside
Forestry, birdwatching, caring for creation,
looking at habitats, minibeast hunts



Celebrating our Outdoor Learning in the Forest

Last year, we introduced weekly outdoor learning in our Forest as I'm so passionate about the benefits of learning outside. This means that our children are experiencing time in the Forest weekly rather than just once per half term. Our outdoor classroom here at St Leonard's is one of our school 'Super Powers' and ensures that our children have time and space to connect with the beauty of nature each week. This in turn enhances their emotional well-being, concentration, resilience as well as their physical and spiritual growth. Not forgetting problem solving, collaboration and environmental learning opportunities. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful garden, forest and talented staff to bring our outdoor learning to life. The weekly photographs capture our love of learning outdoors.

Proud of our Pupil Leadership

Each month, I have the pleasure to meet with School Council and Worship Council. The children have some great ideas for the year ahead. Next week we are going to introduce 'Leaf team' worship each Wednesday so that our teams meet up and build bonds as a group. The leadership teams would also like to share a half termly newsletter about the wonderful memories and achievements which they are supporting here at St Leonard's. We look forward to sharing their first newsletter just before half term.

Wishing everyone a nature filled weekend ahead,
Mrs C Keay and our outdoor-loving team

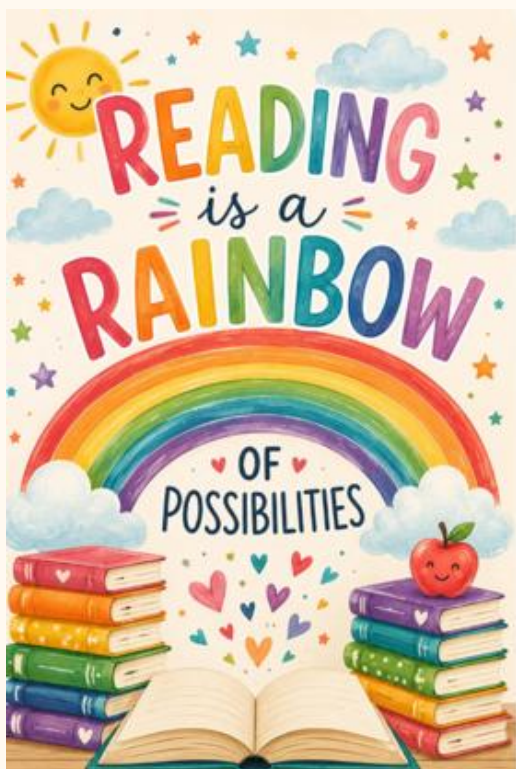
Stars of the Week



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)

St Leonard's Before & After School Care
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



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.



Our fabulous Noah's
Arks



Weekly House Point Tally

Holly



376

Oak

344

Sycamore

328



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

Year Group: Owls
Date: 09.10.26
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. Can you make a list of some of the nouns which you come across in your reading book? <i>Remember reading brings joy and makes you a great writer too.</i>
	Maths: Y1 - Use counters to find all the different ways to make 10, e.g 7+3 Y2 - As above. Can you also find all the different ways to make 20?
	Other: Science: Use the leaf identification sheet below to identify some leaves from your garden/local area <u>Leaf identification for kids - Nature Detectives</u>



Our Weekly Home Learning

'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Hedgehogs - Reception
Date: Friday 9th October
Return Date: Thursday 15 th 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 started to learn the graphemes: ck, e, u, r

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

[ELS: Phase 2 pronunciation](#)



Maths:

We have been comparing mass this week using measuring scales to show heavier and lighter! Have a go at being 'human weighing scales' by comparing weights in each hand! We would love to see some photos!



Other:

Next week we will be learning about houses and homes, we will be describing our homes using descriptive phrases! Please could you send a photo of your home for us to share when describing!

HEDGEHOGS



This week, we have been exploring the story Peepo! and thinking about how life and toys have changed over time. We enjoyed looking at old toys and comparing them with the toys we play with today, noticing similarities and differences. We also explored how things work, making our own pop-up puppets and finding out how the mechanisms made them move.





Learning in our outdoor classroom



During Outdoor Learning this week, Class Hedgehogs became wonder hunters using their special 'Peepo' glasses! The children explored the world around them and discovered lots of wonderful things, including leaves, trees, apples, and even our friendly resident robin. They then linked their learning to their topic on old toys by creating their own *conker rockets*, which they had great fun launching and flying around the outdoor area



Class Foxes enjoyed a fantastic outdoor learning session this week as they revisited the Creation Story. Working together, the children creatively designed seven activities to represent each day of creation using only the natural resources available in our outdoor area. Activities included creating nature pictures for Day 3, bird watching for Day 5, and a lively game of animal charades for Day 6. To finish the session, the children took part in an exciting game of hide-and-seek with a twist, which cleverly incorporated their emerging risk assessment skills.
Well done, Foxes!



Owls have been identifying trees from the different leaves they could find



We are excited to see what our new Early Years classroom will look like! The larger windows will certainly brighten the class.



What makes our school so great?

Elliott "I like forest school especially as we get to wear our own clothes everyday"

Ralph "The teachers are my friends"

Vinny "I love making our Christingles & celebrating Christmas"

Just a quick reminder that although the school's deadline for ordering photographs has now passed, it's not too late to place your order!

If you haven't had a chance to order yet, you can still order your school photographs directly from us via our website - <https://www.academyphotos.co.uk/online-ordering>

Simply visit our website and follow the instructions to place your order.

If you have any questions or need any help with your order, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Don't miss the chance to capture those special school memories!

Best wishes,

Academy Photography

<https://www.academyphotos.co.uk>

01782 566100

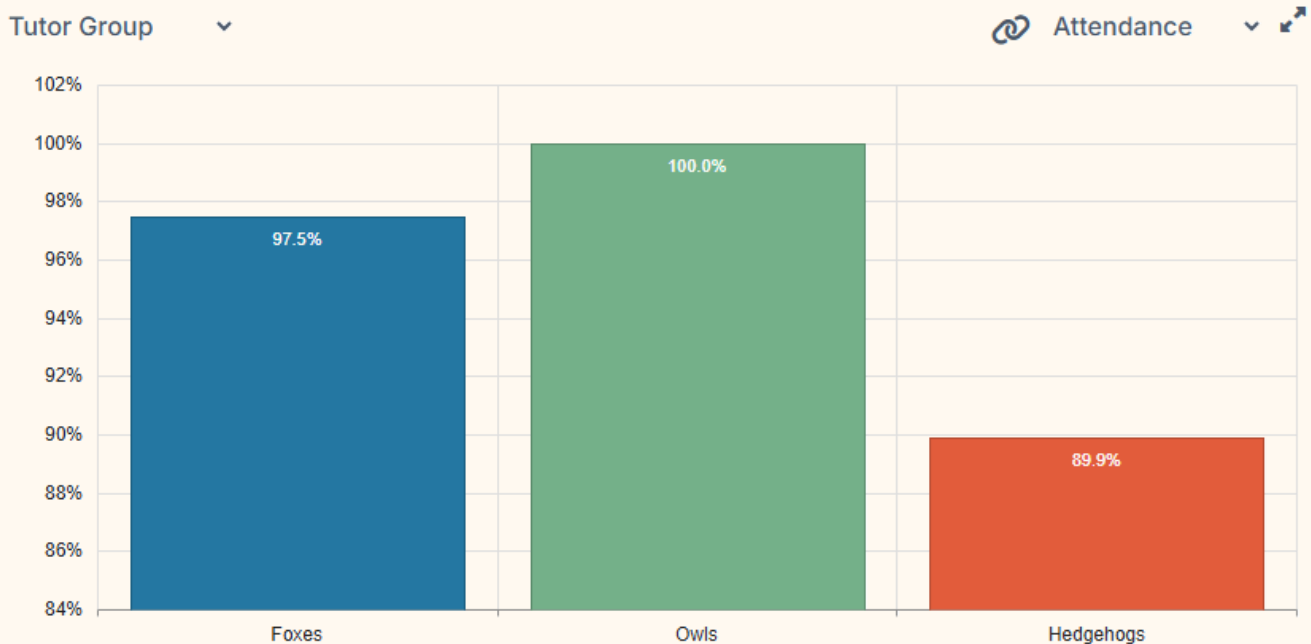


VILLAGE AUTUMN	Dinner Times		
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
	Week 1 23rd Aug, 27th Sept, 12th Oct, 21st Nov, 23rd Nov, 14th Dec Meatballs in Tomato Sauce & Spaghetti or Sweetcorn Pizza & Garlic Sauce (V) (VG) Jacket Potatoes & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Rat with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Green Beans, Sweetcorn Fresh Salad Selection, Wholemeal Shred Bread Hot Cream & Fruit (V) Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt	Week 2 19th Sept, 20th Sept, 19th Oct, 16th Nov, 30th Nov Meatballs in Tomato Sauce & Spaghetti or Sweetcorn Pizza & Garlic Sauce (V) (VG) Jacket Potatoes & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Rat with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Green Beans, Sweetcorn Fresh Salad Selection, Wholemeal Shred Bread Hot Cream & Fruit (V) Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt	Week 3 24th Aug, 14th Sept, 5th Oct, 26th Oct, 16th Nov, 7th Dec Meatballs in Tomato Sauce & Spaghetti or Sweetcorn Pizza & Garlic Sauce (V) (VG) Jacket Potatoes & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) Rat with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG) Green Beans, Sweetcorn Fresh Salad Selection, Wholemeal Shred Bread Hot Cream & Fruit (V) Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yogurt



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



Appointments

A reminder that if your child has an appointment during the day, please let the office know so that your child can be marked correctly in the register. A copy of the appointment letter or screenshot of a text confirmation will be required for the absence to be authorised. Thank you



We have been learning:

Autumn Days

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

Harvest Samba

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

Dear God,
We thank you for our wonderful world—
for the tall trees, the open sky, the
buzzing insects, and the paths we walk
today. Thank you for curiosity, for hands
to touch and eyes to see, and for the
chance to learn outside the classroom
walls.

Please help us to treat all living things
with care and respect. Keep us safe as we
explore, give us quiet hearts to listen,
and open our minds to discover the
wonders all around us.



Pray

Amen



Our Safeguarding Team

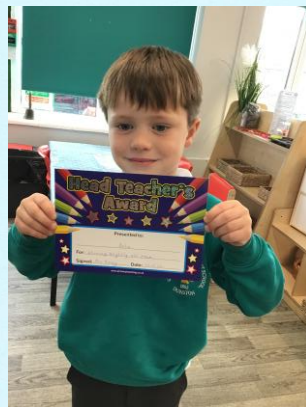
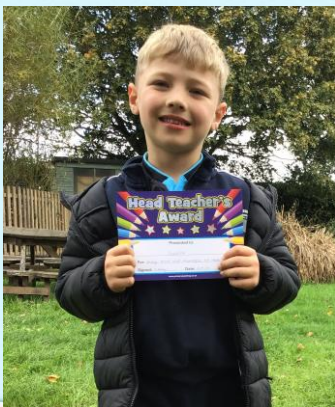
Mrs Keay is our Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Laing is our Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Should you hear or see something that concerns you, please
contact the office to speak to either of them.



Postcard from the Headteacher



Headteacher Award



Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 14 th October	Foxes - Hay House Farm Trip
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!

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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

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& Childcare Vouchers
Accepted ✓

AWARD-WINNING HOLIDAY CAMPS

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



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10% Siblings
20% Full-Week

YOU CHOOSE YOUR SPORTS!



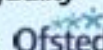
"Best Multi-Sport Holiday Camps
Provider 2026 - Midlands"

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
NHS 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