Friday Post

6th November 2026

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

Dear families,

We hope that everyone had a wonderful half term break. I can't believe that we are in the month of November already. Children have brought home a letter today with all of the key dates and events for the rest of this half term. We can't wait to welcome families in to school for our 'Learn with Me,' workshops and our annual Christmas events.

Today, our CEO from Staffordshire University Academies Trust visited us. He was overwhelmed by the improvements we have made in school to enhance the enrichment opportunities for our children as well as the depth and quality of our curriculum and teaching.

Following some unexpected delays, our extension has re-commenced, and the builders have been very busy adding a steel frame and knocking through to the extension; the room is looking so big as you can see from the photos.





Thank you to Miss Tina for our delicious Firework themed lunch on Thursday; the children really enjoyed their special meal. The children have been dazzling us with their learning all week just like the autumnal fireworks.



Thank you for the kind donations towards the poppy appeal; poppies will continue to be sold today and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be exploring remembrance in Worship and the themes of 'Trust, Love and Friendship. The children have been making poppies, poems and prayers to add to a whole school remembrance display.

During worship this week, we have been considering our new value of 'Trust.' The children had some excellent ideas linked to how trusting relationships secure friendships and fun. A real highlight of our week was our first ever 'Leaf Team Worship,' which has been suggested by School Council. It was lovely to see the children from each class building friendships and connecting more closely as a leaf team group.

Next week, we will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 13th November. Children can bring in a teddy for a teddy bear lunch. In addition to normal school uniform, children can wear Pudsey themed accessories. We are also sending home a Pudsey template to fill with coins/donations and to return to school next Friday. We can't wait to see how much money we can raise as a school family.

Here's to a memorable weekend and week ahead,
from Mrs Keay and our truly sparkling team at St Leonards.

Stars of the week

Marcie
Amelie
Sunday

Care, Love and Kindness Award

Elsie
Aoife
Grace

Achievements from home

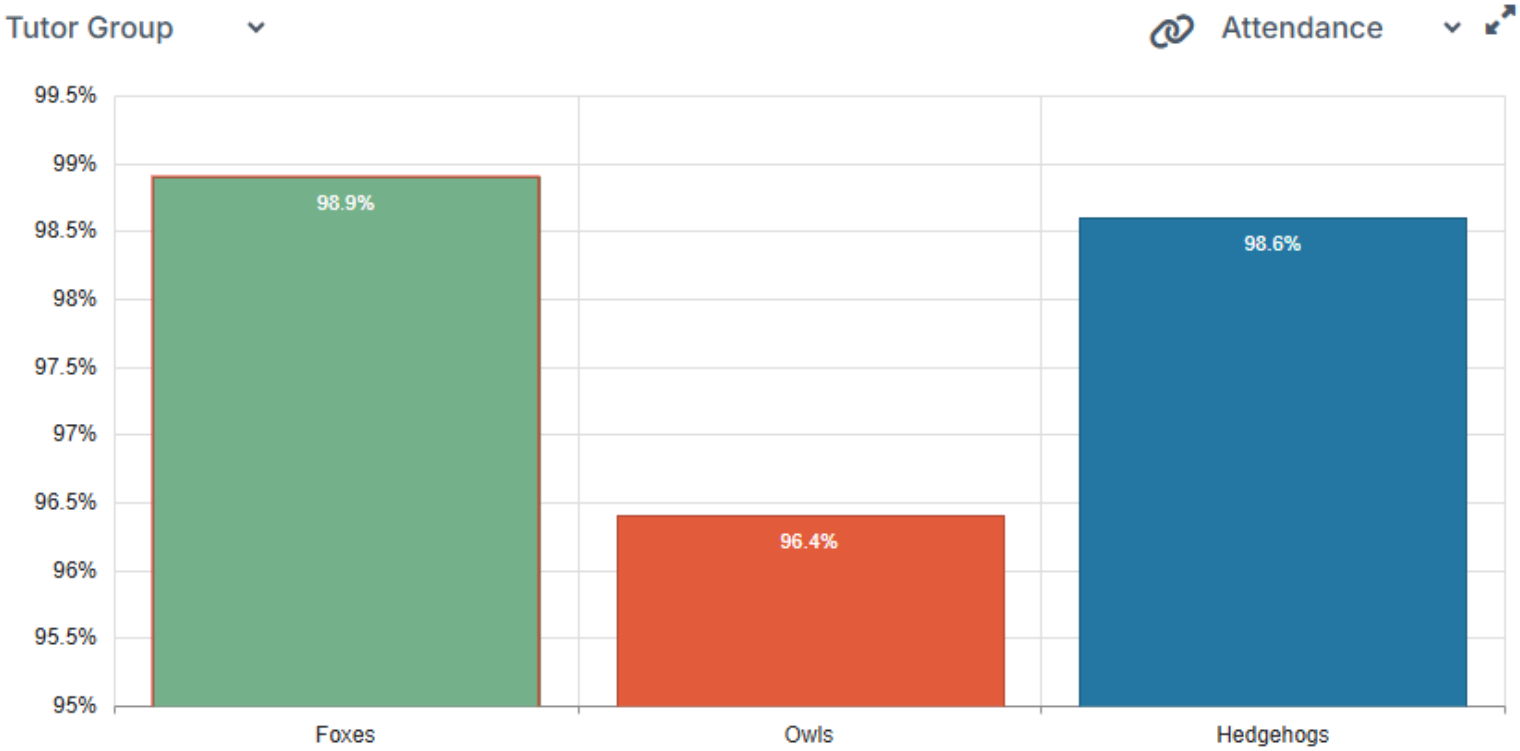
Freya – Athletics
Lola - Dancing

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.

PE STARS OF THE WEEK

Penny
Lucas

This weeks attendance





Thank you for all your donations of cardboard tubes. We now have enough.
Mrs Carrington



This week we have been singing our school hymn:

God suit

Cheeky Pandas | DANCE WITH HERBIE: God Suit On

Class Owls – Parents Evening Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th November.

Booking sheets are now in the entrance hall, please enter your name next to a convenient time slot.
Thank you



Wellies

Could **ALL** children please have a pair of wellies at school. It is important that the children have wellies in school every day so they can join in with impromptu sessions in the forest area, wet play and they are also needed when we walk across the farmers field to church. Thank you.

BIG QUESTION

What do we love about our school?

Hallie *"I love coming to school so I can learn new things, see my friends & teachers"*
Teddy *"Doing Art & DT"*
Daisy *"Playing with my friends"*
Rupert *"I love all my friends at St Leonard's"*
Grace *"I love my teachers at St Leonard's"*

Quote of the Week



Richard spotted an item of the builders on the car park and asked Mrs Trumble *"why is there a giant cannon on the car park?"* – it was the builders cement mixer!! ☺



Pray

Dear God,

Thank you for our leaf teams at school and our new Wednesday Worship.

Help us to be kind to each other as we learn to love and love to learn.

Help us to show respect to our leaf team leaders who are here to help and guide us especially at lunch time.

Thank you for the opportunity to work together this term in our mixed year groups to connect, make friends and enjoy each others company.

Amen.

HEDGEHOGS









This week, we explored the story 'Little Glow' and learned about how light is used in different celebrations. Through discussions, creative activities, and play, we discovered the significance of light in Bonfire Night, birthdays, and Diwali, noticing how candles, fireworks, diyas, and lanterns help mark special occasions and bring people together. We created celebration-themed artwork, explored light and shadow using torches and sources of light, and shared our own experiences of family traditions. Inspired by Little Glow, we also reflected on themes of kindness, belonging, and how even a small light can make a positive difference, helping us develop an appreciation of the ways people celebrate across different cultures and communities. We have talked about people who help us in the community around this time of year such as firefighters. In Maths, Reception have been subitising groups of 1, 2 and 3 items. This has developed an understanding of what each number looks like, and what it is made up of.















HEDGEHOGS

Our Weekly Home Learning

'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Hedgehogs - Reception
Date: Friday 6th November
Return Date: Thursday 12th November

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:** **This week we have been counting to 3 and recognising amounts up to 3. We have been subitising to 3.**  **We would love to see you having a go at our subitising game!** Represent 1, 2 and 3 using small objects. Cover each amount with a bowl or cup.  Quickly reveal one group of objects and ask children how many there are. Swap the positions around. When you stop, can they point to the bowl with 3? Lift the bowl and see if the children can instantly say whether they are correct.
	Other: Our learning this week has been focussed around the use of light during celebrations. We have discussed birthdays, bonfire night and Diwali. We would love to see any photographs of your children joining in with a celebration!

FOXES

Our Weekly Home Learning

'Learn to Love and Love to Learn'

Year Group: Foxes
Date: 6.11.26
Return date: 12.11.26

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. Don't forget to write this in your reading diary too! ***Remember reading brings joy and makes you a great writer too.***
	**Number bonds/Timetables:** TT Rockstars- We have a battle on which ends next Friday! Who will be our champions this week? ***Fluency with number bonds and times tables make you a mighty mathematician.***
	**Spellings:** Y3- See Reading Diary Y4- See Reading Diary Spellings will be checked on **Friday 13th November 2026**
	Other: Maths (in homework book) arrays **DT- Please bring in two pieces of different fruit on Monday or Tuesday ready to make our fruit salad on Tuesday!**

Learning
in our outdoor classroom



















Children made sparklers from twigs and leaves, created autumn-inspired patterns, and built dens with their friends. Lots of creativity and teamwork all round!

















BIG QUESTION

If you could invent a fire work which reflected your personality…What would your firework be like (colours, shapes, sounds)?

Jarrod *"Red, because I love being loud"*
Aoife *"Purple, sometimes I am shy but other times I can be loud"*
Pippa *"Quiet fireworks so animals wouldn't be scared"*
Tommy *"My firework would be big and split into 2 pieces, part pink and part yellow because they are my favourite colours"*
Elsie *"Mine would be green because it's my favourite colour, and it would sound like bird song as it's my favourite sound"*
Marcie *"Mine would be blue because it's my favourite colour it would be silent because I don't like loud noises"*



SchoolGrid
Enhancing your school day



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!



Our Safeguarding Team

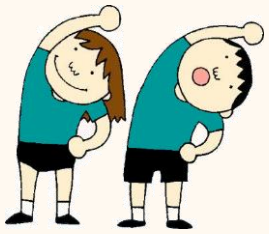
Mrs Keay is our Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Laing & Mrs Thompson are our Deputy Safeguarding Leads.
Should you see something that concerns you, please contact the office to speak to any of them.





Thursday PE Kit reminder:

- Black trainers or pumps
- Plain, round neck Teal t-shirt (branded with school logo or unbranded)
- Teal hoodie or school jumper.
- Long black trousers/tracksuit bottoms (Shorts for summer)
- Grey, black or white socks.
- No earrings (safety risk for children)



(**No football kits or sports logos)**

To support families, for this half term, all classes will have PE as well as outdoor learning in the Forest on a Thursday.

This will mean that every Thursday all children should arrive at school wearing full school PE kit (including a teal school jumper or teal hoodie and jogging bottoms.

On a Thursday, children will need to bring with them the following clothing for their time in the Forest. (Forest Kit can be left in school each week if you would prefer).

Outdoor Learning in the Forest - Thursdays

In addition to wearing PE kit, children will need:

- A warm, waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers or an all-in-one waterproof suit (if heavy rain is forecast)
- A hat, scarf and gloves (during colder weather)
- Wellies which are stored at school (or walking boots/socks)
- No earrings (safety risk for children)





Open Day for Reception 2027

St Leonard's C.E First School
1862
Dunston

St Leonard's C.E First School & Nursery
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG

www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk

Open Day
Tuesday 17th November
Tours at 9:30am & 1:30pm

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the school office via phone or email.

01785 712488
office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk

If you can not attend this date, please contact us to arrange an alternative time.

WHERE CHILDREN

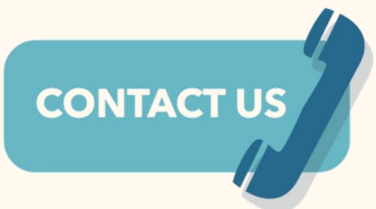
Learn to Love, Love to Learn





Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 11th November	Owls rescheduled Parents Evening
Thursday 12th November	Owls rescheduled Parents Evening
Friday 13th November	Children in Need – add spotty accessories to your uniform
Monday 16th November	Anti-bullying day come to school in Odd Socks!
Tuesday 17th November	Open Day for Reception 2027 intake 9.30am & 1:30pm
Friday 20th November 8:50am	Year 1 parents – join your child for Phonics & Reading session
Friday 20th November 2.30pm	Nursery parents – Oracy focus; please join us even if Friday isn't your usual day in school
Monday 23rd November 8:50am	Reception parents – join your child for Phonics & reading session
Friday 27th November 8:50am	Foxes parents – Multiplication check workshop
Friday 4th December	Christmas tree light switch on & carols
Monday 7th December	Pantomime – more info to follow
Tuesday 15th December	Nativity AFTERNOON performance – more info to follow
Wednesday 16th December	Nativity MORNING performance – more info to follow
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper day & Party afternoon
Friday 18th December – 9.15am	Church Service at St Leonard's Church everyone welcome
Friday 18th December	School closes at 1:30pm
Monday 21st December	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th January	Back to school
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	Half Term
Monday 22nd February	Back to school



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.

Parenting Support Sessions

Free 1:1 advice & guidancese 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 avaliable to book separately
Please contact daniellebutcher.fss@sctsp.org.uk for more details

Charity No. 1077687
Company No. 3575079

Emotional based school avoidance

Free workshop for parents

Join us for a free, friendly workshop with practical tips to support your child with school anxiety and attendance

What we'll cover:

- School avoidance
- Anxiety about attending school
- Persistent absence
- Building motivation and positive routines



Date: Monday 16th November 2026
Time: 18:00 - 19:00
Location: microsoft Teams

Follow the QR code or visit
sctsp.org.uk/community-family-support

We look forward to seeing you there

Charity No. 1077687
Company No. 3575079



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Free workshop for parents

Join us for a free, friendly workshop with practical tips to support your child with school anxiety and attendance

What we'll cover:

- School avoidance
- Anxiety about attending school
- Persistent absence
- Building motivation and positive routines



Date: Wednesday 18th November 2026
Time: 13:30 - 15:00
Location: Stafford Manor High
Rising Brook Fire Station, 150 Hesketh Road, Rising Brook
Spaces are limited so booking is essential
Follow the QR code or visit
sctsp.org.uk/community-family-support

We look forward to seeing you there

Charity No. 1077687
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