



St. Leonard's CE (A) First School Newsletter


Friday 30th June 2023

'From a tiny spark to a bright flame'



'In him was life; and life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness'. (John 1:4-5)

Executive Headteacher of St Leonard's CE (A) First School / Executive Principal of Manifold C of E Academy: Mrs Kelly Stanesby Chair of Governors: Mrs Sue Hey and Rev Jane Held: Designated safeguarding lead: Mrs Kelly Stanesby, Deputy safeguarding leads: Mrs Julie Amos and Miss Torr

Monday 3rd July 2023	Full uniform 11.00am - Health and Safety meeting
Tuesday 4th July 2023	Full uniform Year 4 transition to Churnet View Middle School
Wednesday 5th July 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit Outdoor learning activity day
Thursday 6th July 2023	Full uniform
Friday 7th July 2023	PE kit Transition morning for new Reception - staying for lunch

Your lunch menu for the 3rd July 2023 - 7th July 2023

Monday 3 rd July 2023	Tuesday 4 th July 2023	Wednesday 5 th July 2023	Thursday 6 th July 2023	Friday 7 th July 2023
Pizza, potato wedges sweetcorn and peas	Chicken korma, rice, peas and carrots	Roast chicken, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	All day breakfast	Fish fingers, chips and peas or beans
Shortbread	Flapjack	Shortbread	Rice krispie cake	Ice cream

Star Awards



Congratulations are sent out to the following children who won Star Award's this week:

Star of the Week Sparks	Sam
Star of the Week Flickers	Annie
Star of the week Flames	Jack S, Oscar, Ewan
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	Darcy
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	Charlie
Spark to a flame Flames Class	Lili
Mrs Amos award	Sophie F
Cook's Award	Jacob

Well Done

A very well done to Ursula who completed her bronze stages two and three this weekend at Pony Club on Casper.

Corah Rae also achieved a distinction in her ballet exam.

Well done to both of you!



Surprise guest!

This week we have had a visit from a very special little visitor. His name is Emrys.

Emrys is a baby barn owl which Mrs Stanesby and her family are hand rearing. He is in Mrs Stanesby's care so that he can be trained.

At the moment Emrys is still brand new but in a couple of weeks time he will be more fluffy and look like an owl!

Mrs Stanesby will be bringing him in regularly to show the children how he is growing and changing. The children had an assembly where they learned all about what Emrys eats and how he will eventually look. They were most interested in his eating habits (chicks!).



Transition visits

Churnet View have advised us that their staff will be striking on Wednesday 5th July which was one of the year 4 transition days. This means that unfortunately they will only be attending on Tuesday 4th July.

Parents are still required to transport their children on this day please.



Outdoor learning day

On Wednesday 5th July the children will be having a whole school outdoor learning day.

Some of this day will involve the children helping to maintain the outdoor area environments but we are also going to be preparing some entries for the Leek and District Schools Garden show which is on the 8th July.



We are proud to present the

Leek & District Schools Garden Show

on
Saturday 8 July 2023

at
St Paul's Church Centre
Novi Lane, Leek ST13 6NU

Open to the public 10.30am
Show closes 2pm

Refreshments available from 10.30am

We would be very grateful if you could support this event which gives
local schools the opportunity of showcasing their produce

Join in the Fun
and Laughter

Funhouse Comedy
Presents a
'Comedy Night'
in Ipstones

- **Great line up of professional comedians!**
- Tickets £12 (over 18's only)
- Bring your own drinks
- Splendid raffle prizes

For info and tickets contact Denise on
07739179722 or denise_rowe1@yahoo.co.uk

All proceeds to:

Cancer Research & Ipstones 1st School
Friday September 15th 7.30pm

In the Memorial Hall

Seaside trip

Please could all payments and school packed lunch requests be in for Friday 7th July.

You can make your £20 payment for the trip via parent pay and you can order a lunch via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/WjxJv2L9Cj>



Wraparound care

Please may we remind you that children need to be booked into wraparound care in advance.

Staffing, snacks and bills are arranged on predicted numbers.

We appreciate that there may be times when your child needs to stay in an emergency, but notice must be given at the earliest convenience.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -98 %

Artificial intelligence is probably the hot topic in technology circles right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of the human race. In the short term, however - definitely as far as its impact on young people is concerned - the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered 'virtual friends' which are springing up all over the internet.

There's Replika and Kuki, for instance, while Snapchat has recently got in on the act with My AI - and search engines like Bing and Google have developed their own versions. Are these machine intelligences suitable online companions for young people? What are their limitations and weak spots? This guide profiles the emergence of AI 'virtual friends'.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognize when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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Fun Dog Show

Thank you so much to all who supported the "Handsome Hounds" fun dog show on Sunday and a very special thank you to Kelly Fowell who organised the whole event to raise funds for our school. Thank you also to Mrs Goldstraw and Mrs Stanesby who represented the school and ran the tombola and raffle.

We had some winners from school so congratulations to Zara who's pooch, Rolo, won third prize in the " Best puppy" category and Eleanor F's dog Lily won first prize in "The golden oldie" category.

£600 was raised in total which will contribute to more exciting educational trips for the children.



Dates for the diary

Summer Term

Churnet View transition day for year 4s - Tuesday 4th July

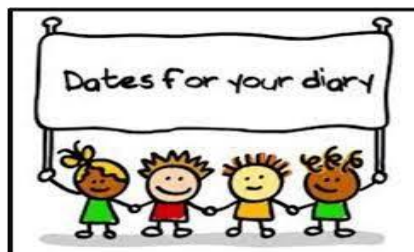
New reception transition morning - Friday 7th July

New reception transition morning - Friday 14th July

Tuesday 18th July - Whole school trip to the seaside.

Thursday 20th July - Leaver's service (PM)

Term ends - Friday 21st July



Sports Day

What a fabulous sports day we had on Wednesday! We managed to largely avoid the rain and a good time was had by all.

The turnout of parents and relatives was phenomenal so thank you to all who came along to support your children and of course for taking part in the parents' race!

A very big thank you must go to Mr Walker who hosted the whole occasion and did a fabulous job.



Sports Day



Sports Day



2023 - 2024 Term dates

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September and Tuesday 5 September

Term starts: Wednesday 6 September

Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

Inset day: Monday 6th November

Term ends: Friday 22 December

Holiday: Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

Spring Term 2024

Inset Day : Monday 8 January

Term Starts: Tuesday 9 January

Holiday: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 31 March

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April

May Day: Monday 6 May

Holiday: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term Ends: Friday 19th July

Holiday: Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August



Sparks

This week Sparks class have made their beach lava lamps. They used empty water bottles, half baby oil, half water, glitter, plastic sea animals and blue food colouring to create their beach scenes. They have been practising their Maths by counting sizzling sausages in a pan! Unfortunately Miss Milward kept burning the sausages so the children had to recount each time a sausage turned black!



Flickers

Flickers class have been sewing their felt animals. They used a running stitch to sew their felt together and drew funny faces on their creatures to bring them to life.



Flames

The year 4 boys enjoyed their visit to Churnet View on Thursday. As you can see, they looked happy and relaxed about going.



Flames class have been practising their cartography! They have studied symbols on ordnance survey maps, been for a walk around the village to check locations of landmarks and have checked "Street view" to draw their own accurate maps of the village.

