



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

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 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 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Full uniform  9.30 - Mrs Stanesby, Mrs Amos, Mrs Crooks - Finance meeting
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Full uniform
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023  Welly Wednesday  	Welly Wednesday PE kit  3.30 - 5.00pm - English update
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	PE kit and wellies  Trip to National Adventure Farm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Dress down for chocolate (donations for the school fayre), suitable footwear for PE.

## Your lunch menu for the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Pizza mac and cheese	Pizza and wedges	Roast of the day, mashed and roasted potatoes	Whole school trip to The National Adventure farm	Fish fingers, chips
Ice cream	Shortbread	Jelly		Shortbread

Christmas has arrived!

Christmas has well and truly arrived at St Leonard's. We now have three cheeky elves in school. Clumsy lives in the Flames classroom, Elfie in Flickers and Sparkles in Sparks!

They have been surprising the children each morning with their antics! Clumsy was making snow angels, Elfie was reading in the reading bath and Sparkles was wrapped in stickers!

Mr Bones has also got into the festive spirit by donning his Santa outfit!



### Thank you

A very big thank you to Mr George Ratcliffe, David Latham and Dianne Scragg who have very kindly donated £550 to the school from the wishes of his lovely wife Jean who used to volunteer here and has recently passed.

Jean Ratcliffe volunteered at St Leonard's for 18 years. She worked alongside Mrs Harrold teaching craft to the children and talking to them about her experiences during the war.

She accompanied the children on many school trips and watched many children finish their journey at St Leonard's. She even saw Mrs Stanesby as a new starter, progressing over time to the Headteacher.

Her wish was that these donations would "Help the children".

We will make sure they do.

Sending thoughts and strength to Jean's family.

Thank you again for thinking about us during an incredibly difficult time.



### Another Thank you!

The final figure for Eleanor F's fundraising efforts has been revealed as.....

**£1100!**

This is an amazing donation to our school fund and again we would like to thank everyone who took part in the sponsored bike ride for Parkinson's UK and our school but most of all thank you to Eleanor and her family.

This generous donation will ensure the children enjoy many more exciting extra curricular activities and opportunities.





## Christmas Show

Wow! What a wonderful evening!

The children did themselves proud putting on an amazing performance of "Straw and Order".

Thank you to all who came to support them and thanks to parents for the fabulous costumes!

Special thanks to Miss Torr for being the producer, director, casting director and stage manager of the show again this year and thank you to all the staff for all their hard work to make this happen. Thank you to The Memorial Hall, the trustees and our helpers on the night.

Most of all thank you to the children for all being brilliant!

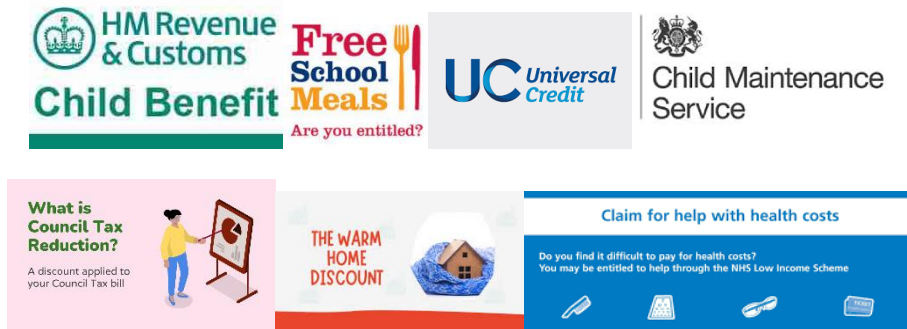
If you would like to order a USB of the show they are available to order via Parentpay and orders will need to be in by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.



## Financial advice



The past year has been a strange one for us all. With the cost of living going up we are feeling the pennies pinch in more ways than one. The following are some suggestions you may not be aware of or haven't thought to look at to financially help your family:



Looking regularly on the Government website is always useful as new schemes are on there and 'The Martin Lewis' Money Show' is always full of useful tips and advice!



### Childcare costs:

St Leonard's Wraparound accepts payments via:

**TAX FREE CHILDCARE**

**CARE4**

**KIDDIVOUCHERS**

**SODEXO**

If the company you work for offers alternative childcare voucher schemes please speak to Mrs Crooks.

### School Uniform:

We always have school uniform available in the uniform bank and will always take donations. Alternatively, why not recycle and reuse between yourselves?

If you require any uniform, please speak/email Mrs Amos or Mrs Crooks and they will have a look for you to see if we can help.





## Hair

Please may we ask that children have their hair tied up for school, especially on Wednesday and Fridays which are PE days.

Thank you.



## Christmas raffle

Just a reminder if not already returned, Christmas raffle tickets (sold/unsold) need to be returned by 18th December to Mrs Crooks/the office.

The prizes include Emma Bridgewater goods, Stoke City tickets, Hetty's tea shop voucher and many more.

So far we have made £220 which is fabulous!

The draw will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December.



## Well Done

A very big well done to Corah Rae who achieved her 10 metre backstroke certificate this week.

Good job Corah-Rae!



## New Menu for next term

Please see attached our new menu for next term, starting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January when the children are back in school.

If your child has a bespoke menu these should be sent to you direct by Edwards and Ward.

Please note that because we are a small school we have a single choice menu, however there is a jacket potato option should your child prefer this instead of the main meal.

	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
<b>MONDAY</b>	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Choice of Filled Jackets Green Beans, Sweetcorn St Clement's Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Choice of Filled Jackets Green Beans, Sweetcorn Lime Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(WG) Choice of Filled Jackets Sweetcorn, Green Beans Vanilla Iced Shortbread (Ve)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>Senior Recipe</i> Penne with Beef Bolognese (WG) Choice of Filled Jackets Broccoli, Garden Peas Apple Crumble (Ve)(WG) with Custard (V)	Cottage Pie Choice of Filled Jackets Broccoli, Garden Peas Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Chocolate Custard (V)	Pork or Chicken Sausages with Mash & Gravy Choice of Filled Jackets Sliced Carrots, Garden Peas Toffee Apple Sponge with Apple Custard (V)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy Choice of Filled Jackets Cauliflower, Sliced Carrots Chocolate Mousse with Pears (V)	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Yorkshires & Gravy Choice of Filled Jackets Cauliflower, Sliced Carrots Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy Choice of Filled Jackets Cabbage, Carrot Batons Chocolate Mousse with Mandarins (V)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Mild & Sweet Chicken Curry with Rice (WG) Choice of Filled Jackets Rainbow Veg Banana Bread (V)	Breakfast for Lunch with Diced Potatoes Choice of Filled Jackets Baked Beans, Cooked Tomato Flapjack (Ve)	Mac & Cheese (V) Choice of Filled Jackets Rainbow Veg Jammy Dodger Flapjack (Ve)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Choice of Filled Jackets Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Peaches (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Choice of Filled Jackets Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Banana (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Choice of Filled Jackets Baked Beans, Garden Peas Vanilla Ice Cream with Fruit Cocktail (V)

V - Vegetarian    Ve - Vegan    WG - Wholegrain



## Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -97%

Please remember to let the school know before 9.00am if your child will be absent from school.

If your child has suffered from sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must remain absent from school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea.

Wherever possible please try to arrange dentist and doctors' appointments out of school hours. We appreciate this is not always possible but it does affect your child's attendance.

Weekly attendance reports are produced and any persistent absences or a low attendance rate will result in communication from the school to ensure all is well and to offer any assistance if required.

Thank you.

## Parentpay

Please ensure that any outstanding debts on Parentpay are paid before Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

This is **essential** for the wrapround care.

It is important for parents to keep their account topped up and up to date. The office keeps track of all accounts, and outstanding balances which will be chased by phone, letter, text or email. Any balance which still remains unpaid will be followed up by a meeting with Mrs Stanesby

Please be aware that we cannot run the clubs without payment which should be paid by the end of each half term.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Just A  
Friendly  
Reminder  
:) please pay your  
fees**



## The National Forest Adventure Farm - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

The deadline for payment for the trip is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December please. The cost is £17, payable via Parentpay.

If you haven't ordered a school packed lunch please send your child with one from home.

Please ensure the children are in school by 8.50am in the morning as we will be leaving at 9am prompt. The coach collects us at 2.15pm so we should be back in time for normal collection at the end of the day, traffic permitting. We will of course keep you updated should there be any delay.

Please could all children wear their PE kits and if they haven't got wellies in school please send them in with them.

Hats, warm coats and gloves are a must please.

Thank you.



## Flu vaccination clinics

All children from Reception to Year 11 are eligible for the free flu vaccination. Given as a painless nasal spray, the vaccine not only helps protect children but can also help prevent them spreading the virus to more vulnerable family members and friends over the winter months.

Parents and guardians of children who may have missed their flu vaccination in school, are invited to book an appointment at one of the catch-up clinics taking place in Staffordshire:

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Barton FS	9.30am-3pm
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Sandyford	9.30am-3pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Rising Brook HC Stafford	10am-6pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Tamworth Rugby Club	3pm-7pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Meir Matters	3pm-6pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Leek (LMH) Room 10	10am-5pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Smallthorne HC	9:30am-3pm

These clinics are available by appointment only. To book a clinic appointment please call the service on 0300 124 0366.

Lines are open 8:30-4pm Monday-Friday.

### Dates for the diary

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas trip to the National Adventure Farm - All day

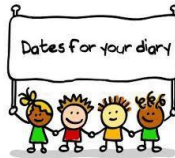
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Dress down day for chocolate - Donations for the school fayre

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas coffee morning

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 9.15am - Christingle service

Dates may change.



### 2023 - 2024 Term dates

**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 19<sup>th</sup> July

**Holiday:** Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August

Term dates 2024-2025

<p><b>Autumn Term 2024</b></p> <p><b>Inset Monday 2 September &amp; Tuesday 3 September</b></p> <p><b>Term Starts: Tuesday 3 September Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November</p> <p><b>Inset Monday 4 November</b></p> <p><b>Term Ends:</b> Friday 20 December</p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January</p>	<p><b>1. Inset Monday 2 September</b> <b>2. Inset Tuesday 3 September</b> <b>3. Inset Monday 4 November</b></p>
<p><b>Spring Term 2025</b></p> <p><b>Inset Monday 6 January</b></p> <p><b>Term Starts:</b> Monday 6 January <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February</p> <p><b>Term Ends:</b> Friday 11 April</p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday:</b> Sunday 20 April</p>	<p><b>4. Inset Monday 6 January</b></p>
<p><b>Summer Term 2025</b></p> <p><b>Term Starts:</b> Monday 28 April</p> <p><b>May Day:</b> Monday 5 May</p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May</p> <p><b>Inset Monday 21 July</b></p> <p><b>Term Ends:</b> Monday 21 July</p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Tuesday 22 July – Friday 29 August</p>	<p><b>Pupil Term ends:</b> Friday 18 July</p> <p><b>5. Inset Monday 21 July – LA recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Holiday:</b> Tuesday 22 July – Friday 29 August</p>



This week's free online safety guide focuses on the 12 online safety tips of Christmas for children with new devices. Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. The guide takes a look at a number of tips such as how to turn location settings off, how to discourage device dependency and how to set up parental controls.

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 topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

- ### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).
- ### 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.
- ### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.
- ### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.
- ### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.
- ### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.
- ### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home Wifi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.
- ### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.
- ### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.
- ### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.
- ### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.
- ### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.





## Sparks

Sparkles, the cheeky elf, has been up to all sorts in the classroom this week.

On Wednesday he was taped to the clock but not before he left a gift for each of the children on Tuesday morning.

He left them each a mask to colour in.

They have also been writing their letters to Santa at The North Pole.



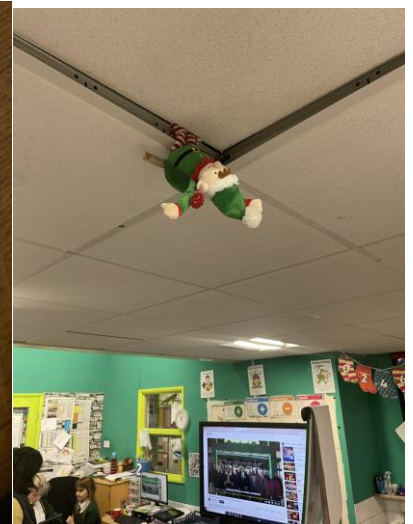
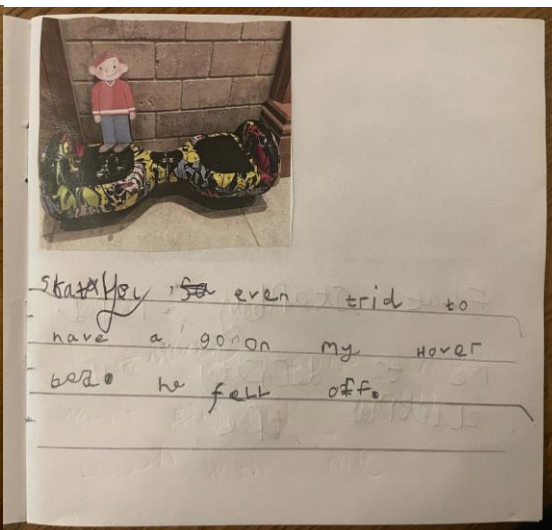
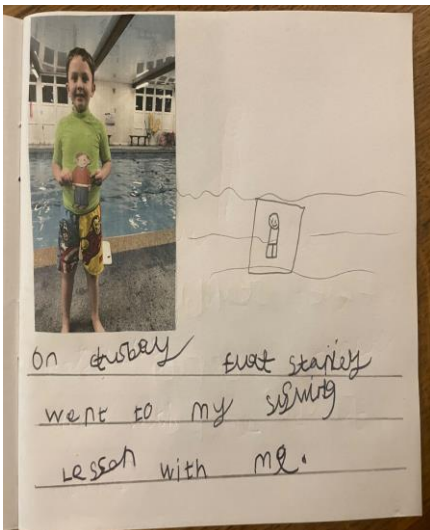
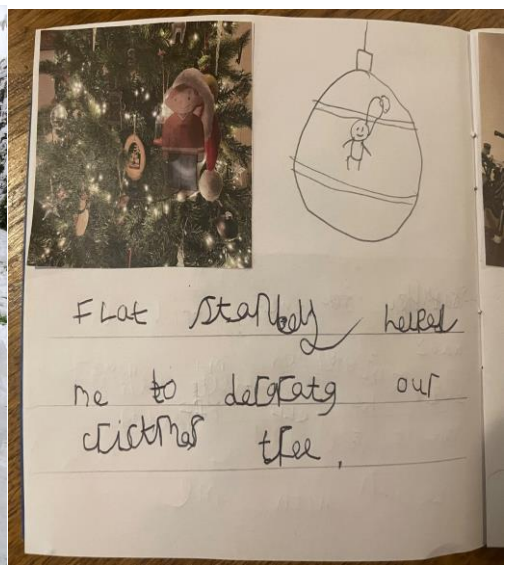


## Flickers

Flat Stanley has been on some amazing adventures with his Flickers buddies.

He has been swimming, hover boarding, decorated Christmas trees, made snowmen, walked the dog and even went to the light switch on in Leek!

Elfie was just casually dangling from the ceiling!





## Flames

Flames class have been designing their own prayer mats. They are making them to take out to Wild Worship to put on the stumps where they sit. They went on a spiritual walk on Welly Wednesday to take a note of the things around them that God has provided. They will include these in their designs.

Flames' elf, Clumsy, has also been keeping an eye on them and couldn't wait for the show!

