



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


Friday 27th October 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 6 th November 2023	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 th November 2023	Full uniform Children back in school 3.30pm - 6.30pm - Parent's Evening
Wednesday 8 th November 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit 9.30am - 12.00pm - Mrs Amos and Mrs Crooks training
Thursday 9 th November 2023	Full uniform 9.30am - 1.00pm - Mrs Stanesby and Mrs Amos - Training
Friday 10 th November 2023	PE kit 10.00am - Remembrance service at St Leonard's cemetery. All welcome.

Your lunch menu for the 6th November 2023 - 10th November 2023

Monday 6 th November 2023	Tuesday 7 th November 2023	Wednesday 8 th November 2023	Thursday 9 th November 2023	Friday 10 th November 2023
INSET DAY	Chicken curry and rice sweetcorn and cauliflower	Roast of the day, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Pasta and meatballs, green beans and swede	Fish fingers, chips and peas or beans
	Shortbread	Jelly	Chocolate mousse	Flapjack

Star Awards



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

Headteacher Award	Eva
Star of the Week Sparks	Eleanor G
Star of the Week Flickers	Elise
Star of the week Flames	Kallum
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	All of Reception
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	Eleanor F
Spark to a flame Flames Class	Annie
Mrs Amos award	Corah-Rae
Cook's Award	Lili
PE Award	Autumn, Elise, Eleanor F, Zara, Dylan, Rosanna, Megan, Dottie
Kindness Award	Sophie W, Rosa Bella
Reading Award	Taya, Romily, Elise, Dottie, Ezme

Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to Megan who celebrates her birthday this weekend. Have a lovely day Megan.



Spring forward, Fall back!

Don't forget you get an extra hour in bed this weekend as the clocks go back on Sunday 29th October at 2am!

If the little ones will let you!



Poppies

We have poppy appeal goodies in school.

You can purchase poppies, pencils, crosses, erasers, rulers, snap bands, keyrings, bracelets and sharpeners.

Please send your children in with a donation should they wish to support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Wraparound Care Payments.

We are now able to accept payments for wraparound care via the following voucher schemes:



Tax Free Childcare (Childcare Choices)

Care4

KiddiVouchers

Sodexo



Should you wish to pay for your wraparound care using any of these schemes please contact Mrs Crooks (Crooks.E@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk), 01538 266292 or in person. As your bill will need to be altered accordingly.

Payments can still be made via ParentPay if preferred.



Super stars!

They did it! They cycled 16.5 miles and have so far raised an absolutely amazing £2000 for Parkinsons UK and St Leonard's with more donations to come.

A massive well done to the little team for such a fantastic effort and thank you to Mrs Falder for organising the whole event.



Attendance & Punctuality

We encourage all children to have excellent attendance at St Leonard's.

Regular school attendance brings enormous benefits to individual pupils, their families, schools and the community as a whole. Without regular attendance, levels of attainment suffer and opportunities are missed to obtain maximum benefit from education.

Persistent absence and lateness will affect a child's achievement and progress in school. Comprehensive research shows that there is a direct link between a child's level of school attendance and their level of school attainment.

As a parent it is your legal responsibility to ensure your child receives a suitable full time education. It is your responsibility that your child attends school each day and is on time.

It is important to set the expectation of good attendance right from the beginning of school so children grow up with 'good habits'

Medical appointments

If you need to make a medical or dentist appointment:

Medical appointments should where possible be made outside school hours. When this is unavoidable, your child should be in school for the remainder of the school day, whether before or/and after the appointment.

Holidays & Leave of Absence

There is no legal entitlement to holidays or leave of absence during term time.

A leave of absence can now only be authorized in exceptional circumstances. Holidays are not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and therefore will not be authorised. If a parent wishes to request a Leave of Absence then a formal request must be made in writing stating the dates of the absence and giving details of the exceptional circumstances which they feel warrant the request. A form for this purpose is available from the school office and any requests must be made in advance of the absence.

Lateness

Having good attendance also means being on time and not being late to school. Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and miss out on important introductions to lessons. Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from the very beginning.



The Polar Express

On Monday 6th November Churnet Valley railway have advised that they are sending an email to all schools which in turn we will send straight on to parents to request free tickets to The Polar Express.

The event is not the full immersive Polar Express experience but it is a dress rehearsal where Churnet Valley railway staff practice their show and the children get a free train ride. So there is no Santa or gifts as it is totally free.

The tickets will be available on a first come first served basis.



Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -94%

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 offer any assistance if required.

Thank you.

School Uniform

If your child has had a growth spurt this term please don't forget we have a free school uniform bank with various items of uniform in various sizes.

If you need a replacement please don't hesitate to ask us and we can check to see what we have got and send home with your children.

It's there to be used so please take advantage!

We also gratefully receive outgrown uniform.



Parent's Consultation Evening - Tuesday 7th November 3.30pm - 6.30pm

If you have yet to make an appointment for the parent's consultation evening to discuss your child's progress there are still a couple of appointments available for each teacher. If you cannot make these appointment times but would still like to see your child's teacher please contact the school office and we will arrange a convenient alternative date.



Wild Worship

In Wild Worship on Wednesday Mrs Goldstraw talked about the floods that we experienced on Friday. They talked about how God sent a flood as he saw that people were being unkind. The flood was to block the wickedness of humanity. God instructed Noah to build an ark and take two of each specimen aboard the ark as the flood would destroy all terrestrial life. After the floods God sent a rainbow as a promise to never send floods again.



The Faith Trail

The children enjoyed a wonderful visit to The Open Centre on Thursday where they learned lots of interesting and valuable cultural facts.

They visited The Mosque where they saw the rooms where Muslim children go to study from 4.00pm until 6.00pm each day and they saw where they washed their feet.

In the Hindu temple they had to ring a bell on the way in and out. They were greeted by beautiful statues of their Gods. They were shown how Hindus pray and advised they should not point as a sign of respect.

They were all given a sweet as an offering.

In the Gurdwara they learned about the uniform that some Sikh's wear. They are the five "k's",
A kesh (unshorn hair covered by a turban), kara (steel bracelet), kanga (small wooden comb), kacchera (undershorts), and a kirpan (resembles a knife/sword).

The children had a fabulous day saying;

"I enjoyed the lovely, colourful statues in the temple"

" I liked the Arabic writing in the quran and on the walls"

"I liked the special black cloth from Mecca"

"I enjoyed the Sikh spinning warrior dance"





National online safety

In an ever evolving online world sometimes it is difficult to make sense of the huge selection of apps and games available to young minds. The choices are almost endless and it's not always possible to know which apps are age appropriate, which games are safe to play and just what content your child is being exposed to. These handy guides suggest apps and games that children might enjoy using to learn and play.

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




Suggested Apps and Games For EARLY YEARS




Learning


FISH SCHOOL HD



This app teaches young children (age 2-5) about important things like letters, shapes, numbers and more, all set in a colourful underwater setting with adorable sea creatures. The basic idea has fish and sea creatures forming the shapes of letters, numbers etc that your little one can identify. Developers Duck Duck Moose have a lineage of creating family friendly apps and games with 21 top-selling apps since 2008. Fish School HD has over 50,000 downloads and offers a rounded package of activities, but many other apps by this developer are highly rated and offer a few twists on the formula. As always it's worth checking a few out to see which best suits your child's interests. Fish School HD is available for free on iOS and Android.




GREEN EGGS AND HAM - DR. SEUSS




The classic Dr. Seuss book has been reworked into an interactive adventure for modern day devices, with an emphasis on encouraging literacy learning in younger children. Within the app, there's a few different options on how to enjoy the story: you can read it aloud together, have the app read the book and follow along, or just play the story through automatically. You can even tap on words to hear them individually to practice vocabulary. While the app will set you back £3.79 on Android (£3.99 on iOS) it has an excellent rating and over 10,000 downloads, with many noting how much their young children have enjoyed the story. It speaks volumes about the quality of the work, too, that a book from 1960 can still be read and loved by children some two generations after its initial release.

TOCA LAB: ELEMENTS



Toca Lab is the app of choice in encouraging little scientists to get to grips with elements, our world and how physics and chemistry work. This one might be a little advanced for younger kids and, though it has a PEGI 3 rating, it does recommend ages 6-8 in the description. All 118 elements are present in Toca Labs and kids are encouraged to find and test them all. Experimenting with things like Gold, Neon, Hydrogen and more, it gives a better grasp of how everything in our universe is formed. Bear in mind though that it's not meant to be a scientifically accurate account of how elements react, but to build curiosity in young minds. The app is available on iOS and Android for £3.99.

BAREFOOT WORLD ATLAS



What's the next best thing to travelling the world? Well, for kids with access to an iPad or Apple phone, Barefoot World Atlas could be a close second. In this app available only on iOS for £4.99, kids and adults can explore the globe from the comfort of their own homes and learn all about our planet. The app, which is rated 4+, only appears on Apple devices but the sheer amount of information contained in here will keep curious kids busy for hours on end.

SKETCHBOOK - DRAW AND PAINT (AUTODESK SKETCHBOOK ON IOS)




Encouraging artistic ability at an early age can often be invaluable in letting kid's imaginations loose and there are many apps that allow them to unlock that passion. SketchBook comes highly recommended with over 300,000 reviews. Essentially, the app comprises a blank canvas and a host of "fast and powerful creative sketching tools" like pens, pencils and paint brushes to let those creative juices flow. SketchBook is rated PEGI 3 so even younger children should be able to get to grips with it. However, it could prove a little too complex for some and the large collection of tools and crisp graphics would suit a larger screen like an iPad, over a mobile phone. Despite this, the ability to simply mess around and doodle, coupled with more advanced accessibility later down the line, should make it a must own for all age ranges. The app is free to download on both Android and iOS.



Just for Fun

LITTLE FRIENDS: CATS & DOGS




If you're looking to introduce pets into the family home but aren't sure about how your children might react, a good way to get your younger ones acquainted with an animal before a big commitment is a game like Little Friends: Cats & Dogs. This Nintendo Switch game tasks players with feeding, playing with and loving their own virtual cat or dog. Much like Nintendogs or even Tamagotchi of the 90s, Little Friends is a fun way to build up confidence to owning a real animal. While only a 1 player game, Little Friends: Cats & Dogs is suitable for all ages and entirely offline, so there's nothing at all to worry about when they're enjoying it alone.

BBC iPLAYER KIDS



This app is designed for kids and lets them watch all their favourite CBBC and CBeebies shows in one place. The simple presentation is super easy to navigate and the app itself is entirely free on both Android and iOS with no adverts whatsoever. BBC iPlayer Kids can download shows to your device's internal storage allowing you to take all the best bits with you when there's no WiFi and multiple profiles mean everybody gets straight to their favourites with minimal fuss. According to the app description, it will ask for your child's name and age to recommend other programmes it thinks they might like.

YOUTUBE KIDS




YouTube Kids takes the popular YouTube format and curates a more specialised environment for children to search through. While any age range can benefit from YouTube Kids, the 'Preschool' Mode is specifically designed for kids aged 4 and under. According to the app's description, 'Preschool' Mode promotes creativity, playfulness, learning and exploration through its channels. The inclusion of parental controls (limited screen-time, video blocking and flagging) and strict advert monitoring by YouTube means the experience is incredibly safe for younger kids. It should be noted that in the app description, YouTube say that some inappropriate content can slip through the cracks, but they're constantly implementing updates to stop these. A hugely popular app, YouTube Kids is available on iOS and Android with well over 100 million downloads.

ROCKET LEAGUE



The concept behind Rocket League takes teams of jet-fuelled cars zipping around football-inspired pitches in an attempt to knock a giant, over-sized ball into nets. Rated PEGI 3, the challenge of Rocket League is probably more suited to those 5 and up, but anybody can enjoy the bright colours and fun gameplay. Rocket League is available on Windows PC, Mac, PlayStation, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch at various price points. Be warned though, you can spend money in the game for certain items so be sure you know when your young ones are playing and what they're buying.

MARIO KART 8 DELUXE



Mario Kart has been a staple of Nintendo consoles since 1992. It has been a favourite of young and old alike for over 20 years and is always an incredibly fun experience. Now exclusively on the Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart 8, the bells and whistles may have changed, but the enjoyable core gameplay and challenge have not. Suitable for all ages, Mario Kart can be played alone, online or at home with up to 4 players on one screen. The ability to take the Switch out with you into the world and play wherever you like is a huge advantage over other games and means you can always be sure of some quick entertainment.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





Suggested Apps and Games For 7-11 YEARS



Learning



MAGIC PIANO BY SMILE

While Magic Piano doesn't strictly teach you how to play the piano, it does teach hand-eye coordination and can help spark creativity in young minds. Users can play along to a variety of popular songs on a range of difficulty levels in an attempt to get through the song with as few mistakes as possible, increasing dexterity and reaction times. Free on iOS & Android, the game does contain some ads and in-app purchases, so be sure to check these out before letting younger players unleash their musical side. Magic Piano is PEGI 3 rated but requires slightly more nimble hands to master so older kids will get the most from this.



AZOOMEE

Azoomee houses over 1,000 games, videos and activities for kids of all ages to play, have fun and most importantly, develop their key skills in. The app is award winning, BAFTA nominated, supported by the NSPCC (according to the description on their app page) and comes with a suite of parental controls built in. As well as educational games, activities and kid's favourite TV shows, the app also has a built-in chat feature where they can talk to their friends safely. A nice little touch is that if you buy a subscription to Azoomee for unlimited premium content for £4.99 a month, a portion of the money raised goes towards supporting the NSPCC. The app is available on iOS, Android and Amazon.



POLY BRIDGE

While Poly Bridge could be easily enjoyed solely as a game, it's actually an incredibly clever way to learn critical thinking and engineering skills in a kid friendly way. It's set in a colourful, cartoony world and has extremely simple gameplay. In Poly Bridge, it's your task to get cars, buses, trucks, boats and more safely to their destination by designing bridges that are safe and practical. How those bridges are created is entirely up to you. With over 100 levels, a sandbox mode and almost infinite playability, Poly Bridge is available on PC, Android, iOS and Nintendo Switch at various price points, so be sure to check which is the best option for you.



CROSSWORD PUZZLES (WUBU APPS LTD)

Crossword puzzles might not immediately seem like a learning game for younger kids, but they're incredibly effective at building strong word skills and problem solving. This one by Wubu Apps Limited is exclusive to iOS and constantly changes its roster of daily crosswords and challenges, although there are a whole bunch of apps available out there which do similar things. The app is rated 4+ but would likely be suited to kids a little older as the crosswords are designed for adults as well. As mentioned, Crossword Puzzles is only available on iOS devices and is free to download but does contain in-app purchases.



SCRIBBLENAUTS UNLIMITED

Scribblenauts is a game like few others in that it actively encourages children to use their intuition to solve a variety of puzzles. Armed only with their imagination, players must complete levels by conjuring potentially useful items for main character Maxwell to collect the Starites and achieve his goal. The game helps create strong vocabulary and word association to a fun 2D backdrop. While any version of Scribblenauts is good, Unlimited is the most readily available, being released on Wii U, PC, Nintendo 3DS, iOS and Android devices, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch.



Just for Fun



SUPER MARIO ODYSSEY

Widely regarded as one of the greatest games Nintendo have ever made, Super Mario Odyssey provides family friendly fun and a challenging environment for kids to learn new skills in a video game. Rated PEGI 7, Odyssey can be enjoyed by almost any age range, even those who are young at heart. The caveat is that the game is only available on Nintendo Switch, so some investment will need to be made, but the console boasts a host of other child-safe titles and the ability to play on the go as well as at home.



NETFLIX

As obvious as it may sound, Netflix's children's section is ideal for keeping young ones and toddlers out of trouble on long journeys or at home. The specific profile for kids allows them to only view content appropriate for younger audiences which lets you and them watch their favourite shows and movies anywhere, at any time. Curated playlists, easy navigation through TV series and movies, and no-hassle auto-play means a stress-free guarantee. The only downside to the app is that it requires a Netflix subscription in order to use it but if you're happy to pay the monthly cost, it's an absolute must for any parent.



MINECRAFT

Minecraft is one of those rare, timeless classics that can be enjoyed by every age group. Coming in both a console version and a pocket edition for mobile devices, the sandbox world-building fun in Minecraft can be an amazing place to let your imagination run wild. The game can be played online with friends and supports cross-play, meaning that no matter what device everybody has, it can be played together. While the game isn't free, it will undoubtedly provide hours and hours of fun for the whole family so it's worth the investment of a one-time purchase. As one of the most popular games ever released, it inspires critical thinking, problem solving and above all, fun.



LEGO MOVIE MAKER 2

The LEGO Movie Maker 2 app lets users create their own stop-motion movies and upload them for others to watch online. Kids can create a short LEGO movie in whatever genre they like using a range of easy to use tools and are able to add in sounds and visual effects to make the videos look super realistic. All movies are moderated before they make it online so you can be sure no sensitive information is uploaded or viewed by third parties. The app is free to download on both iOS and Android devices but does require creation of a LEGO account to upload videos. The only information needed for an account is the country you live in, your email address and date of birth. While it's rated for 4+, kids of 8 and up will get the most out of this one.



ADVENTURES OF POCO ECO: LOST SOUNDS

If something more slow-paced and chilled out is on your radar, Adventures of Poco Eco should be able to scratch that itch. With an emphasis on creating a rich and inviting musical soundscape over hardcore gameplay, the puzzle action is perfect for unwinding young minds, as opposed to challenging them. The single-player game is available on all iOS and Android devices, as well as the Amazon Kindle Store and you can also nab yourself a free copy of the soundtrack with the purchase.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Dates for the diary

Tuesday 7th November - Parents' Evening

Friday 10th November 10.00am - Remembrance service

Friday 17th November - Dress down for Children In Need

Friday 24th November - 2.00pm - Advent service

Friday 24th November - Ipstones Lights Night

Friday 1st December - Christmas trip to The New Vic Theatre to watch The Nutcracker

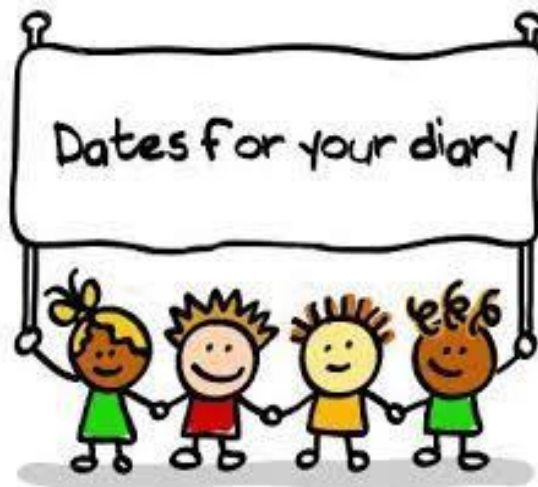
Thursday 7th December - Christmas show at The Memorial Hall

Thursday 14th December - Christmas trip to the National Adventure Farm

Friday 22nd December - 9.15am - Christingle service

More dates and confirmation to follow.

Dates may change.



2023 - 2024 Term dates

Autumn Term 2023

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 decorated their own pumpkins. They used hand drills to make their pumpkins patterns which they had designed by drawing them first. They had to scoop out the middle and cut off the top. They wrote their names on them too using their hand drills to create the letters.



Flickers

This week Flickers class made butter!

They used double cream and a pinch of salt to make butter like it was made in the past.

Firstly they put their ingredients into a jar. They then shook and shook the jar until the cream whipped, then they shook it some more. By shaking the cream past the whipped cream stage they separated the butter and buttermilk. In the olden days this would have been squeezed to get the excess buttermilk out and the solids patted in to a block of butter using the wooden butter paddles that Mrs Goldstarw brought in to show the children. She also brought in a dairy maid toy to show how they used to churn the milk.

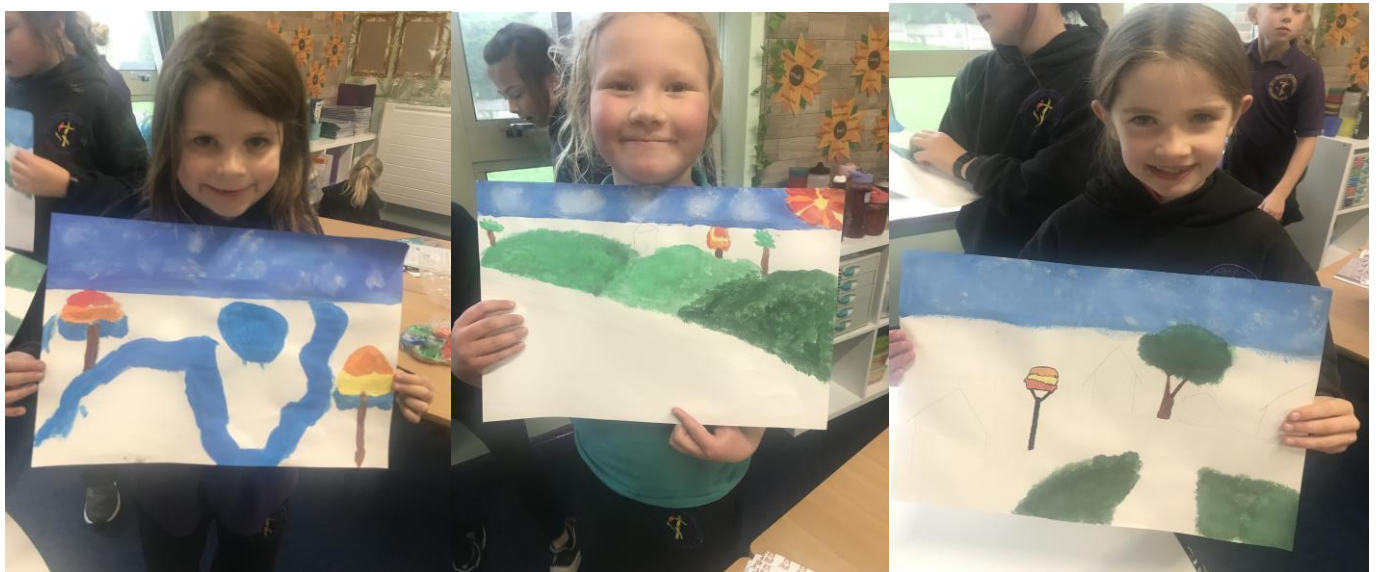
The children sampled their home made butter on crackers and really enjoyed it!



Flames

Flames were collecting leaves and nuts from various trees on the school field this week. They had to match the leaves and nuts to the tree. They even found some hazelnuts!

They have also been working on their David Hockney and Clarice Cliffe collaboration paintings.



Happy Half term

We hope you enjoy a lovely restful half term and we will see you back in school on Tuesday 7th November.



