



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


Friday 22nd 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 8 th January 2024	INSET DAY
Tuesday 9 th January 2024	Full uniform Spark to a Flame Day- Spiritual Development Day
Wednesday 10 th January 2024 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit Mrs Crooks - Safeguarding training - 9.30 - 16.30
Thursday 11 th January 2024	Full uniform
Friday 12 th January 2024	PE kit

Your lunch menu for the 8th January 2024 - 12th January 2024

Monday 8 th January 2024	Tuesday 9 th January 2024	Wednesday 10 th January 2024	Thursday 11 th January 2024	Friday 12 th January 2024
INSET DAY	Pasta and bolognaise	Roast of the day	Chicken curry	Fish fingers, chips, beans or peas
	Shortbread	Chocolate mousse	Sponge	Ice cream

Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to Eleanor and Sophie W who celebrate their birthdays over the Christmas holidays.

Have an amazing time.



Well Done

Well done to Jack who has passed his stage 4 swimming certificate. Brilliant job Jack!

Eleanor also received her 10m swimming certificate. Well done!



Another well done!

A very big well done to our very own Mrs Barks who has again achieved a 5 star environmental health rating in her kitchen. The Environmental Health Officer turned up out of the blue (as they do) last week just before lunch time. Everything was ship shape and Mrs Barks retained her fab 5 stars!



Parentpay

Please ensure that all outstanding bills are paid by the end of term. It is imperative that wraparound care bills are paid.

If wraparound care bills continue to not be paid on time we will be forced to reconsider this service. The school already subsidises this and makes a loss but we realise the importance to parents of breakfast and after school club. However, with school budgets being stretched to the max we will be required to look at cost cutting and if this remains to be not financially viable it may have to go. So, please settle any outstanding bills to keep it running.

Thank you.



Christingle oranges

Many thanks to Jim at the village shop who has once again donated our Christingle oranges.

It is appreciated very much. Thanks again!



Year 3 and 4 Gulliver's Kingdom 2024 residential trip

Next year's year 3 and 4 residential trip will take place from Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th June.

The item is live on Parentpay and we are asking for a £49 deposit to be paid by 26th January please.

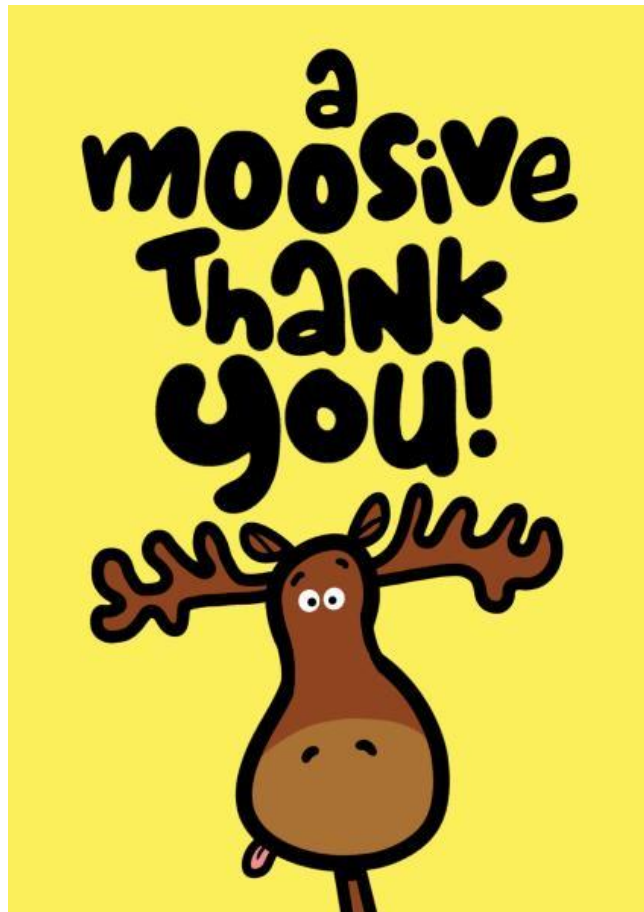
If you require any financial assistance please contact the school office.

Last year the children (and staff) had an amazing time. We're sure this trip will be the same!



Thank you

Thank you so much for all your very kind gifts and cards and donations. Thank you also for all your support this year. Making your child's learning journey a happy one is of the utmost importance to us at St Leonard's and to have the support of parents and carers behind us means a lot to us.



Christmas Fayre

Thank you so much to all who supported and attended the Christmas Fayre on Tuesday.

The children all had a great time manning the stalls and spending their money!

It was topped off by Christmas show songs which the children performed brilliantly!

We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Special visitor

On Thursday afternoon the children had a very special visitor. Santa came to see them at school!

He handed out presents to the children and they all had a chat telling him how good they had been all year and they had their picture taken with him.

It was a complete surprise for the children so it was lovely to see their faces when he arrived on his sleigh!







Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -92%

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.

Presents for the children

This year we have gifted the children a wooden Nutcracker ornament as a reminder of our special visit to The New Vic Theatre. We hope they enjoy it for many years to come.



Christmas jumper, Christmas dinner

There were lots of lovely festive jumpers, full tummies and cosy pyjamas this week for the last two days of school.

Thank you to Mrs Barks for cooking a scrumptious Christmas dinner.



Christingles

On Thursday the children made their Christingles in preparation for Friday's Christingle service.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps tell the Christian story;

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Christmas carols

Unfortunately, the carol singing had to be cancelled on Thursday morning due to the weather. However, we will bring it to you in the comfort of your own homes!

You will find the children singing "Away in a manger" and "We wish you a Merry Christmas" on the school facebook page.

Enjoy!



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 19th July

Holiday: Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August



Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets for the Christmas raffle. It made £500 for the school fund which is amazing! Thank you to Mrs Crooks for organising it!

And the winners are:

First prize - Stoke City tickets - Helen Burgess

Second prize - Emma Bridgewater ware - Romily

Third prize - Hetty's tea shop voucher - Julie Hepworth

Reform voucher - Laura Cope

Sprinks deer park voucher - Autumn

Sea Lion Beer - Carol Bennison

JCB 3CX model - Jack Chafer

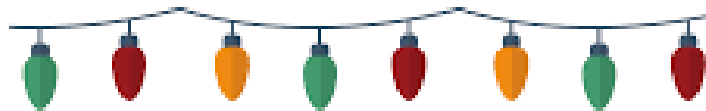
JCB hat - Julie Bennison, Carol Lockwood

Inflato voucher - Taya

Children's Peak Wildlife vouchers - Pete Drury, Eddie,

Bottle of wine - Rosie O'Hara

Well Done to all our winners!



Christmas Raffle



There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life. It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day - even one as special as Christmas. In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform Groupon, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology.

Going online, of course, is useful for checking in with friends and relations who we can't be with, or for arranging celebrations - but if we allow gadgets to dominate our Yuletide break, that precious time could pass in a flash. We've got suggestions for keeping a handle on device use over the holidays, so your family can be truly together this Christmas.

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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company - but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!



- CHRISTMAS CRAFTING**
Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.
- NATURE QUEST**
Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year - like holly or pinecones, say.
- CAROL KARAOKE**
Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE**
How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.
- TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING**
Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary - you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.
- WRAP IT UP**
Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.
- WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND**
Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF**
Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.
- ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY**
Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.
- SNOWY SCULPTURES**
If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!
- GAMES NIGHT GALA**
Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!
- GOODWILL TO ALL**
You and your family could spend a day volunteering - perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert
Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities - empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.

The National College
NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sparks

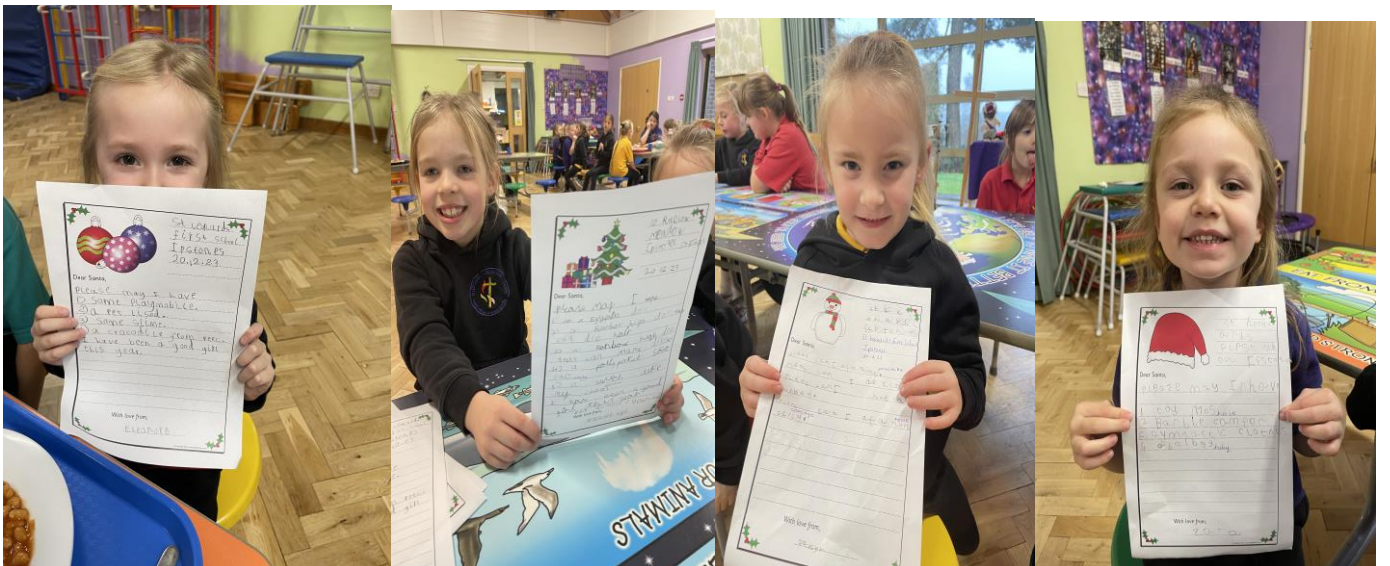
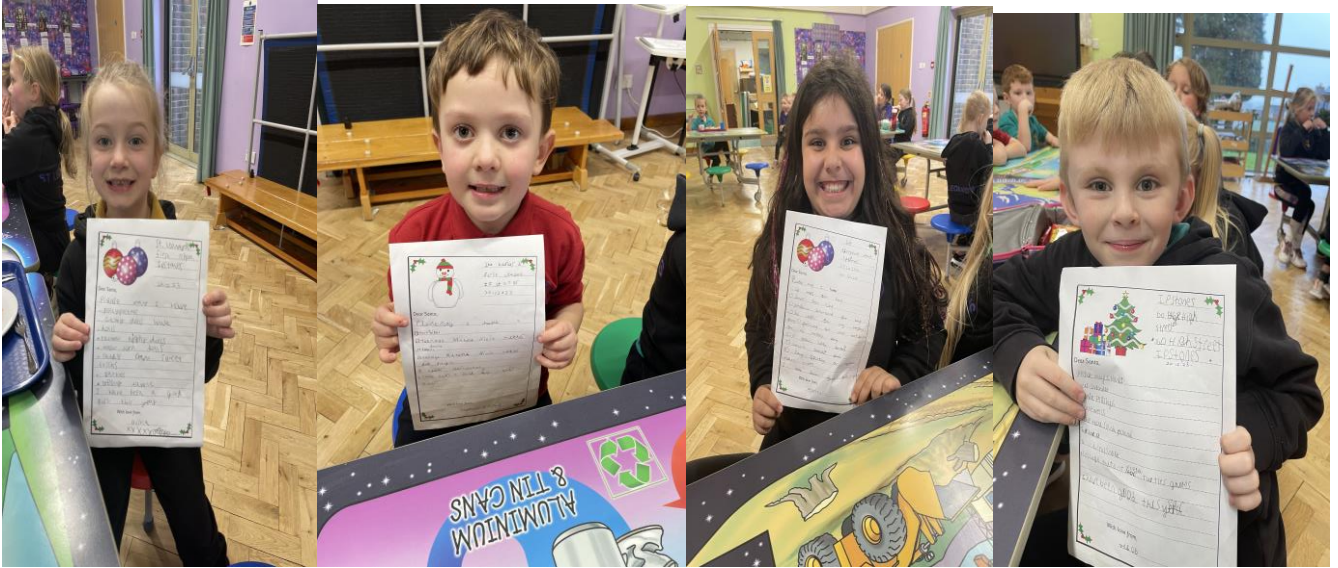
Sparks class have been very festive this week. They have made snow globes with their own beautiful pictures inside, they have made lovely Christmas cards and they have been doing some festive maths by weighing presents.



Flickers

Flickers class have all written their letters to Santa this week.

They are coming home so they can be sent to The North Pole in time for the big day!



Flames

This week Flames class have been mummifying tomatoes to recreate the process of mummification in Ancient Egypt.

They washed the tomatoes like they used to wash the bodies. Then they used a needle to pull out the inside, which represented how they extracted the brain through the nose! They used a spoon to scoop out the inside, (the organs) and put these in jars (canopic jars). Then covered the tomatoes in salt to dehydrate them. They will check their mummification progress after Christmas.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We hope you have a restful and peaceful Christmas and we wish you all the very best for the New Year!

We will see you back in school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

