



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

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022


'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)*

Headteacher: 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

## Weekly Diary

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Full uniform  KS1 Phonics screening assessments
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Full uniform
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022  Welly Wednesday  	Welly Wednesday, all pupils -PE kit all day  9.00am - 12.00pm - New Reception transition morning  10.30am - 11.30am - Vulnerable pupil's transition morning at Churnet View
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Full uniform  1.30pm - Governor's meeting  3.30pm - Laches Wood parent's meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2022  Fitness Friday!	PE kit

## Your lunch menu for the 13<sup>th</sup> June - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni cheese, peas and carrots	Sweet and sour chicken with rice, sweetcorn and brocolli	Roast chicken, roasted and mashed potatoes, cabbage and carrots	Beef meatballs in tomato sauce and pasta, green beans and sweetcorn	Fish fingers, chips and peas or beans
Oaty biscuit	Muffin	Ice cream	Chocolate sponge	Flapjack

## Star Awards



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

Headteacher award	<b>Megan</b>
Star of the Week Sparks	<b>Charlie</b>
Star of the Week Flickers	<b>Rosa Bella</b>
Star of the week Flames	<b>Ewan</b>
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	<b>Ezme</b>
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	<b>Sophie</b>
Spark to a flame Flames Class	<b>Vienna</b>
Writing award Flames	<b>Polly</b>
Reading Award Flickers	<b>Jack C</b>
Cooks award	<b>Harriet</b>
Mrs Amos award	<b>Dylan, Eva, Joseph, Rosa Bella, Jack C</b>

We would also like to mention the children's immaculate behaviour at the Jubilee party at Manifold Primary School last term.

We know we say it all the time but they really stood out as being exceptionally well behaved.

We are very proud that we can take them out and they know exactly what is expected of them and show themselves to be the stars they are!

Well Done!

## Happy birthday

A very Happy Birthday to Mrs Barks who celebrated a very special (dare we say "big" birthday) in the holidays.

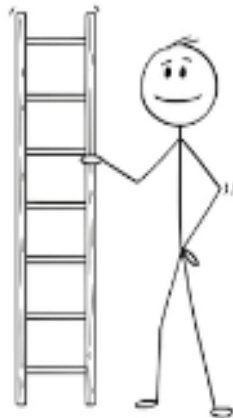
We hope you had a lovely time Mrs B!



## New Co - Chair Of Governors

Unfortunately our Chair of Governors, Matthew Welton, has resigned from his position. We now have Co-Chairs of Governors, Mrs Susan Hey and Reverend Jane Held. They both bring with them extensive experience to support the school. Mrs Hey is a retired deputy headteacher from a local First school and Reverend Jane has spent most of her professional life working with children and has specialised in safeguarding for the last fifteen years.

We would like to thank Matthew for his contribution and support to the school and also thanks Sue and Jane for taking on the position of Chair Of Governors.



Thanks For Stepping Up



### Parent Governor Vacancies

We currently have two Parent Governor vacancies and are keen to recruit enthusiastic and committed parents to be part of our School Governors Team at St Leonard's. You can find out more about the current School Governors from the school website following the St. Leonard's tab to 'Our Governors'.

Our School Governors work as a team by offering supportive challenge to the School to help raise standards and monitor resources effectively. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds so we add value to the life of the school by offering our skills, expertise and time. We are there to make a positive contribution to our children's education and development.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a Parent Governor, please email Mrs Amos at [office@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk) and she will pass on your details to Jane and Sue (Co Chairs of the Governing Body) in order to organise an informal chat with them

Please register any interest with Mrs Amos by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June as the closing date for nominations is 3pm on Monday 11th July 2022. Thank you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane and Sue

### Sports Afternoon

Thank you to all who have let us know you will be attending the Sports Afternoon on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

This will take place from 1.30pm until 3.00pm if the rain can hold off for us!

All welcome but please do let us know if you're attending beforehand.

The link to the online form to let us know is;

<https://forms.office.com/r/BdGYcJ6NdM>



## Random reading spot

Thanks so much to Joseph, Eva, Dylan and Rosa Bella for sending in their random reading spot pictures.

Joe and Eva went to the safari park and found a toadstool to read under.

They also found the Cheshire cat from Alice and Wonderland lazing on a log and read by him too.

Dylan dressed as a Queen's Guard and read "The Royal Nappy!"

Rosa Bella took her book on an airplane on her way to her holiday.

Jack read his book in a quiet peaceful place.



Lunch time supervisor and after school club leader vacancies

We are looking to appoint a lunch time supervisor and an after school club leader to start at St Leonard's in September 2022.

If you or someone you may know love working with children and are interested in the roles please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stanesby for further information.

The job adverts will be live on the school website and WM jobs next week



Breakfast club

Thank you to all who have completed the breakfast club questionnaire.

We have considered your requirements and we will keep you informed of what changes can be made to accommodate your childcare needs.

Please bear with us whilst we work through our options.

If you wish to complete the questionnaire here is the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/p3pnUF03Mr>



Less than 1% of the world's gaming population currently play in VR - but with high-end headsets like the Oculus Quest and Oculus Rift as the vanguard, the influence of virtual reality is beginning to be felt among the gaming community. Improved data transmission rates (such as faster WiFi and the advent of 5G) and a growing selection of games are also accelerating the process.

So if this change is coming - with young players likely to enthusiastically embrace fully immersive game environments - what do parents and carers need to know in advance? This guide to VR highlights the potential risks, including inappropriate content, motion sickness, eye strain, physical accidents and - as ever - other people.

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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PREMATURE EXPOSURE

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide - allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips - most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

### EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

### PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing - so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use - for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

### SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

### MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy - so careful curation is advised.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints - and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

### NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR - and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

### KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

### ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

### RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

## Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at VR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site [gmy3.com](http://gmy3.com) and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: [bbc.com/training](http://bbc.com/training)

### Laches Wood Parent's meeting

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm we are inviting Flames parents in to school to attend a meeting about your child's upcoming outdoor education trip to Laches Wood on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Mrs Stanesby will go through the itinerary, kit list, sleeping arrangements and any other questions who may have.

Parents need to take their children to Manifold Primary School for 9am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July where they will be collected by coach and taken to Laches Wood.

They will return in plenty of time on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July to be collected from school at the normal pick up time.

If you have already completed your child's medical form we will check that nothing has changed 7 days before the trip to ensure we have the most up to date information. If your child's medical circumstances have changed you will be required to complete a new medical form. If you haven't yet completed it please bring in to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Please remember to name all your child's kit, don't send them with any food, drink or electrical devices but do send them with some pocket money for souvenirs and the tuck shop. We recommend no more than £10.

They will be building shelters, pond dipping, learning about habitats, orienteering, indoor caving, wall climbing, taking part in archery and the rope and balance course and they also participate in a search and rescue activity!

We're sure they'll all have an amazing time.



### Attendance

Attendance Target 97%

Attendance this week - 96.3%

With the recent outbreak of chicken pox we have done well to achieve this target.



Please don't forget to call or email the school before 9.00am if your child is ill.

You must inform the school every day of your child's absence.

## Diary Dates

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Inset day (children return to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June - 2.00pm - 3.00pm - Reading workshop

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 trip to Lichfield Cathedral

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - 9.00am - 12.00pm - Reception transition morning

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - 10.30am - 11.30am - Churnet View additional transition date for year 4 vulnerable pupils

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June - 3.30pm - Laches Wood parents meeting

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 9.00am - 12.00pm - Reception transition morning

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 10.30am - 11.30am - Churnet View additional transition date for year 4 vulnerable pupils

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 1.30pm - 3.00pm - Sports afternoon

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Flames class Victoria Hall celebration concert (Please order tickets by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May and pay on Parentpay. Flames class need to be in school by 8.30am please)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - 9.00am - 1.00pm - Reception transition

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 transition visit to Churnet View - drop off for 8.45am, collect by 3.40pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 transition visit to Churnet View - drop off for 8.45am, collect by 3.40pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July - 9.00am - 1.00pm - Reception transition

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July - Churnet View additional transition date for year 4 vulnerable pupils

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July - Flames class visit to Laches Wood

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Break up for the Summer holidays - Wednesday 20 July - Friday 2 September.

Leavers end of year treat and leaver's service dates to be confirmed.



### Leavers Treat

The year 4 children have chosen bowling as their special leaver's treat this year.

They will be going to Uttoxeter cinebowl at 9am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July. They will bowl for an hour then get something to eat, returning to school at approximately 1.30pm.

We hope they're looking forward to it, we know the teachers are!



### Len Fest 2022

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July we are holding a mini festival from 3.00pm - 5.00pm on the school playground.

This will be a humble school fund raising event but most importantly you will get to see some of the magnificent work your children have produced this year as it will be on display.

There will be music, singing, games and refreshments.

More details to follow.

Save the date!

## **LENFEST 2022**



## Well Done

Well done to Jack who achieved his 5 metre swimming certificate.

Good job Jack!



## Reading Workshop

Thank you all who attended the reading workshop on Thursday. We really appreciate you taking the time to visit us in school and to read with your children.

Parents had a presentation from Mrs Stanesby about our reading banding system, how they can contribute towards their children's reading at home and of course there was tea and cake!

The children have all also received their bespoke new reading diaries.

The new diaries explain the book bands, have key words and steps to success for each year group, top tips on reading at home and a section on understanding phonics.

**Why is Reading so important?**

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!*

- Reading builds communication skills.
- Reading opens the imagination.
- Reading has a positive impact on progress at school.
- Reading can improve mental health and well-being.
- Reading is a fundamental life skill.

**Reading lights the flame in your brain and the glow in your heart.**

## Sparks

Sparks Class have been reading "Tanka Tanka Skunk."

Tanka and Skunk love to sing the names of their animal friends to the beat of drums.

Sparks class have been doing the same with a variety of instruments.

This terms learning quest is "Beat, Band, Boogie" so this is in keeping with all things musical.



They also joined Flickers class on Friday to learn about famous composers. They listened to the 80's classic, "Rock me Amadeus" by Falco and had a boogie too!

Here are their portraits of the composers they learned about.



## Flickers

This week in Flickers class the children have been reading the book "Dougal's deep sea diary".

Dougal, a deep sea explorer, is on a search for the lost city of Atlantis but meets many under the sea creatures on his adventures.

The children have been using their senses to write about what Dougal would see, hear and feel whilst on his deep sea dives.

This has been a popular story with the children really igniting their imagination.

Dougal, a deep sea explorer, is on a search for the lost city of Atlantis but meets many under the sea creatures on his adventures.



They have also been learning about the famous composers Mozart, Beethoven, Elgar and Grieg and the music they created. They listened to Eine kleine Nachtmusik, composed by Mozart, Fur Elise by Beethoven, Pomp and circumstance by Elgar and In the hall of the mountain King by Grieg.

Upon hearing the music they immediately recognised it from TV.

They practised being a composer in front of an audience, they pretended to play the piano along to the music and they painted pictures of the famous composers.



## Flames

Flames class have been using acrylic paints and canvases to recreate the work of Modigliani.

They are painting self portraits.

These are a work in progress but we will share with you the finished results.



## Evacuee Day

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June please could Flames class come to school dressed as an evacuee. They have been learning about world War 2 and how children would have felt being evacuated from their families.

They have read articles from real life evacuees and watched footage of children being sent away to stay safe from WW2.

The children should wear 1940's style clothes and they can make a gas mask and luggage labels to make their costume even more authentic.

