



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

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

'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: Mr Matthew Welton


Designated safeguarding lead: Mrs Kelly Stanesby, Deputy safeguarding leads: Mrs Julie Amos and Miss Torr

## Weekly Diary

**NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	Full uniform
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	Full uniform
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday, all pupils -PE kit all day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 Divali	Full uniform
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 Fitness Friday! Bonfire night	PE kit St Leonard's Day Service

## Your lunch menu for the 1<sup>st</sup> November - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pizza, dough balls, sweetcorn and peas	Garlic chicken, roast potatoes, sweetcorn and broccoli	Roast gammon, mashed potatoes, roast potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Meatballs, pasta and vegetables	<i>Bonfire Night menu!</i>  Bangers and mash
Shortbread	Oatie biscuit	Ice cream	Sponge	Ice cream

### Happy Birthday

A very Happy birthday to Kallum, Megan and Molly who celebrate their birthdays over the holidays and next week.

We hope you have a fabulous time!



### Spring forward, fall back!

Don't forget the hour change on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October!

The clocks go back one hour meaning an extra hour in bed!



### Entrance in to school

Please may we ask that parents and carers use the small gate only (next to the playground) for picking up and dropping off, rather than the big gate that leads on to the car park.

This is the vehicle entrance which should be kept clear of pedestrians please for obvious safety reasons.

Many Thanks

**PLEASE  
KEEP GATE  
CLEAR  
THANK YOU**

Bots are computer-generated accounts which sit on social media, masquerading as humans. While many are harmless or even have good intentions, others are designed to extort, sell products, spread propaganda or bully human users. Bots - short for 'robots', of course - are often confused with state-funded troll accounts; the two can be difficult to tell apart. However, if the results are the same, then both should be treated similarly.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as cyberbullying, extortion and astroturfing.

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 issue 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.

# What Parents and Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL BOTS

## WHAT ARE SOCIAL BOTS?

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### KNOWING THE RISKS

#### ASTROTURFING

Propaganda and conspiracy theories are usually niche interests on social media. But with an army of thousands of bots amplifying posts through retweets and shares, people can make their messages travel further and appear to reflect mainstream opinion. Known as 'astroturfing', this can make children more susceptible to questionable beliefs.

#### CYBERBULLYING

Bots can be set to hunt for certain search terms or opinions and then automatically reply aggressively to anybody who uses them in a message. This means that if your child posts something that whoever programmed the bot doesn't like, they may be deluged with angry messages from fake accounts - which can be overwhelming and comparable to cyberbullying.

#### EXTORTION

Criminals use bots to trap users into extortion or online blackmail scams. The bot cultivates a flirtatious online relationship with the victim, then persuades them into a video chat during which they are tricked into posing inappropriately or carrying out a sexual act. This footage is recorded, and threats are then made to release it to the victim's friends and family unless money is paid.

#### SHADY SELLING

Bots are often used for illicit advertising - that is, they spam social media platforms with links to commercial websites. Additionally, some unscrupulous influencers have been found to use bots to artificially inflate their number of followers and the engagement with their account - making them seem more popular and therefore able to charge companies more to work with them.

### SPOTTING THE SIGNS ...

#### BEWARE PROFLIG POSTING

Bots post a superhuman amount of content. A visit to their profile usually proves they're responding to people far faster than a human could. Check their join date and number of followers. If the account has been around for ages and still doesn't have any friends, it probably isn't a real person. A brand-new page is also a red flag.

#### NOTICE ODD USERNAMES

Finding a social media username that isn't taken can be difficult. People often end up with their name and some numbers - but not the way bots do it. A username like **HELLO JOHN123** is either a sign of a random number generator or a site offering an unwieldy alternative because the preferred name is taken, which isn't something most humans would accept.

#### VERIFY PROFILE PICS

Check a user's authenticity by investigating their profile picture: bots obviously don't have faces, so they tend to skim publicly available photos to try to fool people. Put suspicious pics through a reverse-image search like TinEye - you might find they actually belong to someone else or are stock images.

#### CHECK THE CONTENT

Bots can't think for themselves and usually just exist to amplify somebody else's message. Try copying and pasting the text into the search function on Twitter, for example, and see if it's being said anywhere else. If a lot of similar-looking accounts are saying the same thing, you're probably looking at a bot army.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SPOT THE BOTS

Forewarned is forearmed, so if your children aren't that familiar with the world of bots yet, explain what to look for using the tips in this guide. At the moment, most bots still aren't that sophisticated - so finding accounts which are designed purely to troll people or spread misinformation isn't hugely difficult, even for an untrained eye.

### BLOCK AND MOVE ON

Your child isn't obliged to be friends with anyone online, bot or not. Pretty much every social media app has a block button, and you should encourage your child to use it whenever something or someone is making their digital lives less than pleasant. If everyone blocked malicious bots rather than engaging them, they wouldn't pose a problem.

### BE SUSPICIOUS

While many people have made lifelong friends over the internet, it's important not to be too trusting. Random strangers adding you on Facebook could well be bots, so do some background checks: do they have any mutual friends? Is it a new account? Even if everything seems fine, encourage your child to be cautious: warn them of potential risks.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.

SOURCES: <https://www.competing.com/feature/308225/the-positive-sides-for-twitter-bots> | <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/16/world/europe/usa-troll-factory.html> | <https://trappublica.org.uk/uk-and-uk/propaganda-automated-bots-defending-the-government/> | <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/amas-obrien/what-are-the-twitter-users-with-eight-numbers/>

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### PTA Autumn Raffle

The PTA are holding an autumn raffle to raise funds for the school.

The prize is a hamper containing sweets, chocolates and lots of other goodies.

Raffle tickets will be coming home in your child's bag and cost £1 per strip.

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November and the winner will be announced in the newsletter on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November.



### Middle school applications

You can apply for your child's middle school place when the system opens on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

The easiest way is to apply online;

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

The deadline for admissions is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

If you have any problems you can;

Call on [0300 111 8007](tel:03001118007) and select the option "School admissions and transport"

Email [admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Or contact the school office.

### E consent flu vaccination forms

The electronic consent forms for the flu vaccination were emailed out on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October to all parents.

Please could these be completed and returned by 9am on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November if you wish for your child to receive the flu vaccination in school. If your child has or will be having their vaccination at their doctors there is no need to complete the form but please advise the school office so that they can pass on to the school immunisation team.

Thank you.



### Mrs Mellor

It is with regret the governing board of St Leonard's CE First School can confirm that Mrs Sally Mellor has decided to leave her post as class teacher at the school from the end of the academic year.

Sally informed us that she will leave the school with fond memories of the children, staff, and parents and wishes the school every success in the future.

Governors wish her well and thank her for the service she has given the school.

Mr Matthew Welton

Chair of Governors



### Squid Game

The education safeguarding team have issued a warning to parents to be vigilant after hearing reports that children as young as 5 years old are watching "Squid Game".

They have strongly advised that children should not watch "Squid Game". The show is quite graphic with a lot of violent content and age rated 15.

Some children have been playing "Squid Game" at school which is a concern as the thriller features brutal scenes of violence.

The influence of this programme has also crossed over into Tik Tok, Roblox and Minecraft.

Please check your child's settings on their devices to ensure they are not watching this without your knowledge.

We put the safeguarding of the children at the heart of everything we do and online safety, both at school and at home, is of paramount importance given the digital world that children are so familiar with and spend so much time in.

### Forest schools

We are delighted to welcome Georgia Goldstraw (Mrs Goldstraw's daughter) in to school to complete her forest school training.

Georgia will be with us for six weeks and will start after half term on Welly Wednesday teaching the children through this holistic approach outdoors.



### Famous again!

We were in the paper again this week!

The Cheadle and Tean time featured an article on our new playground in Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October edition.



### Remembrance service

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November the children will be walking to St Leonard's cemetery to take part in a commemorative service for the fallen soldiers of the war.

The British Legion and Reverend Hack will be in attendance and the children will pay their respects to the poppies planted in honour of our brave soldiers and will be singing a special Remembrance day song.

Mrs Sue Evans will also be bringing poppies in to sell after half term so the children can bring some pennies in to purchase a poppy should they wish.



### Phone calls home

We have made a bumper amount of phone calls home this week to share your children's wonderful work with you.

The children seem to thoroughly enjoy the experience of sharing their success in school with parents, although some of them do get a little shy! We are thrilled they are working so hard they get this opportunity.

To all of this week's superstars:

Well done!



## Leavers

We are so sorry that we didn't get to say goodbye properly to this year's leavers.

They have all received their leaver's hoodies, bibles, dictionary and thesaurus and each has a trophy and certificate to celebrate their amazing achievements during their time at St Leonard's.

Charlie was awarded the Science trophy in recognition of his passion and talent he showed for science and technology. His impressive knowledge led him to excel in science lessons and enabled him to support other children.

Imogen was awarded the Sports award in recognition of her passion and talent for PE. Her skills led her to excel in PE lessons and be a role model for the other children.

Lottie was awarded the Maths award in recognition of her passion and talent she showed. Her ability in Maths led her to excel in mathematical concepts and was able to problem solve with ease.

Neve was awarded the Creative Writing Award in recognition of her determination and success in writing excellent pieces of writing of all genres, even writing songs in her spare time.

Isambard was awarded the History award in recognition of his passion and talent he showed for History throughout his time at St Leonard's. His impressive knowledge led him to excel in the subject and he supported others with his understanding of History.

And this year's Spark to a Flame award went to;

Charlie Hancock.

Charlie embodied our school values. He was kind, modest, loving and respectful, with a great sense of humour.

His learning journey at St Leonard's was a joy to watch.

Well done to all our leavers and we hope you are enjoying Churnet View and continuing to thrive and flourish.

Please feel free to send pictures in with your leaver's gifts which we can share with your peers and teachers at St Leonard's.



## What have we been up to?

Sparks class have been busy learning all about funnybones this week.

They have been singing the skeleton song and have been making skeleton masks. They have read the Funnybones story and watched the cartoon. They have thoroughly enjoyed it!

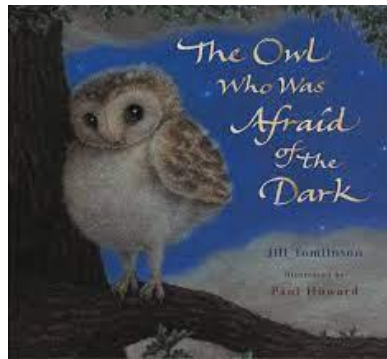
They have also been making spooky spiders and made scary faced pumpkins showing a great use of scissors skills.



Flickers class have been writing some amazing stories based on the book "The owl who was afraid of the dark".

They each chose their own animal to write about who and created some absolutely fabulous stories.

Mrs Appiah was so impressed that they earned lots of phone calls home!



Flames class have been outside collecting Autumn, berries, flowers, twigs and leaves and making beautiful patterns with them inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy.



Have a wonderful half term break!

