

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024



*'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 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 Aimee Torr

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Full uniform
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Full uniform Miss Torr Maths training
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 Welly Wednesday	Welly Wednesday PE kit
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Full uniform 10am - Governor's meeting
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PE kit

### Your lunch menu for the 15<sup>th</sup> April - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Pizza and potato wedges	Sausage and mash	Roast of the day	Mac and cheese	Fish fingers, chips, beans and peas
Shortbread	Sponge	Chocolate mousse	Flapjack	Ice cream



# Star Awards



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

<b>Headteacher's Award</b>	<b>Elise</b>
<b>Star of the Week Sparks</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
<b>Star of the Week Flickers</b>	<b>Darcy</b>
<b>Star of the week Flames</b>	<b>Annie, Taya, Corah-Rae</b>
<b>Spark to a flame Sparks Class</b>	<b>Lilly E</b>
<b>Spark to a flame Flickers Class</b>	<b>Elise</b>
<b>Spark to a flame Flames Class</b>	<b>Nina</b>
<b>Mrs Amos award</b>	<b>Sam</b>
<b>Cook's Award</b>	<b>Ezme, Romily</b>

# Happy Birthday

A very Happy birthday to Zara and Romily who celebrated their birthdays over the holidays and to Elise who celebrated her birthday this week. Eleanor B celebrates her birthday next week.

We hope you had/ have a fabulous day.



## Well Done

Well done to Ava who took her Rainbows promise. Ava had to promise;

"I promise that I will do my best to think about my beliefs and to be kind and helpful." She is now an official Rainbow.



## Congratulations

Many congratulations to Miss Milward who is expecting a baby this Summer!

We can't wait to meet the new arrival!



# Trip to Alton Castle

The children enjoyed their trip on the last Monday of last term. They explored Alton Castle where they took part in a treasure hunt, met Pugin who talked about his architecture and designs and they took part in team building activities.





# Easter gardens

What a fantastic display of Easter gardens we received. Thank you so much for all your hard work, it made the Vicar's job incredibly hard when it came to judging them.

Reverend Jane chose the winners and they were;

Reception - Romily, Year 1 - Zara, Year 2 - James, Year 3 - Corah-Rae, Year 4 - Rosanna



## Parentpay

If you use any other method to pay for wraparound care other than parentpay, eg. Tax free childcare vouchers, please ensure you send a screen shot of the payments to Mrs Crooks so that she can match the payments to the system.

If the payments cannot be matched they show as outstanding whether you have paid or not. Thank you!

# Easter Faith Trail

Before we broke up for the Easter holidays the children took part in an Easter Faith Trail on their way up to church for the Easter service.

We started the trail in school, then stopped off at the Methodist church and The Memorial Hall where some children read readings from the bible for Holy Week. We proceeded to the church to attend the Easter service. After the service the children did some egg rolling and wrote prayers to hang on the prayer tree at the prayer stations inside the church. Well done to all the children who read and to the rest of the school for their wonderful behaviour in church and in the community.



# Random reading spot

Well done to Dylan who knocks it out of the park every holiday with his amazing random reading spots and thanks to Mum for sending in the pics!

This holiday Dylan random reading spots were reading on a spider, on a rope bridge, at Alton Towers, at the park, on a zip wire, at the Mad Hatter's tea party at Churnet Valley, dressed as an Astronaut, reading under the moon, outside Victoria Hall in Birmingham, reading to the Birmingham bull, with Black Sabbath and inside mini land at Legoland!

Phew! A huge well done Dylan for taking your book with you to read in all the fabulous places you visited over the holiday.





# National Online Safety

Cultural and technological changes have made the experiences of today's children vastly different to our own childhoods. It can be challenging to engage youngsters in open, honest conversation especially about more sensitive topics. This, combined with many children's instincts to avoid "rocking the boat" can make it difficult to stay up to date with the goings on in their lives.

However, it's hugely important that trusted adults still offer an empathetic ear and feel able to encourage young people to open up about their day to day activities. This guide provides ten top tips for promoting open conversations with children helping make sure there's someone they know they can turn to in times of need.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

- 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**  
Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.
- 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS**  
Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.
- 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS**  
Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"
- 4 LISTEN ACTNELY**  
When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.
- 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS**  
Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"
- 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES**  
If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.
- 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.
- 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS**  
Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.
- 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES**  
It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**  
It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

**Meet Our Expert**  
With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

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# St Georges' Day celebration

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April we will be attending a whole school St George's Day celebration at Manifold Primary Academy. The event will be a whole day and the children will be taking part in activities such as jousting, archery and fencing. The children will need a packed from home or you can order one from school via the following link before Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

<https://forms.office.com/e/1nsgH3fwpp?origin=lprLink>

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**

10am - 2.30pm

At Manifold Church of England Academy School



Come and celebrate St George's Day!



Jousting



Archery



Fencing

Dress as Knight's, Princesses or Dragons!



Packed lunches required.

# Dates for the diary

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - St George's Day celebration at Manifold Academy

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Class, leavers and graduation school photos

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May - May Day bank holiday

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Year 3 / 4 parents meeting for Gulliver's Kingdom residential

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May - Break up for half term

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Father's Day treat afternoon

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June - Sports afternoon

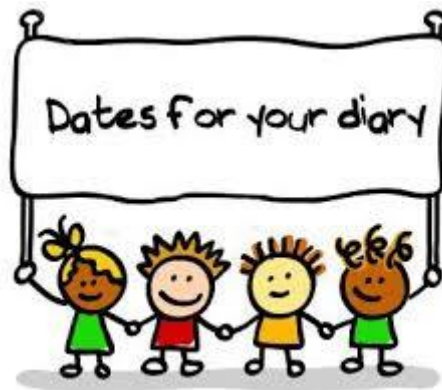
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Flames class concert at The Victoria Hall

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 / 4 residential trip to Gulliver's Kingdom

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Leaver's service

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Break up for Summer holidays

Please note that some dates may change.



## Summer Term 2024

May Day - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Term ends - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Holiday - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Term ends - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Inset Day - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Holiday - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August

# Sparks Class



This week Sparks class have been looking at different types of transportation in keeping with this term's learning quest of eco travellers.

They have been studying cars, buses, trains and planes and they have been learning about the positive and negative impact that transport has on the world and they will gain environmental consciousness.

They completed an obstacle course in the hall and had a great time doing it!

They have also written on raindrops "How to be a good friend." They wrote that they should "give hugs and cuddles", "if anyone is playing by themselves you should play with them" and they should "listen to their friends."



# Flickers Class



Flickers have been learning about the artist Lowry this week. They looked at his paintings of "Matchstalk men and matchstalk cats and dogs" and listened to the song written as a tribute to LS Lowry.

On the topic of music they have also been learning about Vivaldi and listening to "The Four Seasons".

They have been reading "The story orchestra, Four seasons on one day". The story is about what it would be like to travel through the four seasons in one day, following a little girl called Isabelle and her dog, Pickle, as they take on the adventure of a lifetime. As a sign of the changing seasons, Isabelle carries a little apple tree with her, and we see it bud, blossom and lose its leaves.

They have also been rewriting the story of "The Billy Goats Gruff".



# Flames Class



Flames class made their roller coasters this week using foam pipe and straws.

They manipulated the pipes into loops and drops. They then tested them using marbles as the carriages full of thrill seekers!

