



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


Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 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 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Full uniform
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Full uniform
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023  Welly Wednesday  	Welly Wednesday PE kit  Mrs Amos and Mrs Crooks Evolve training all day at Riverway, Stafford.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	Full uniform  Full Governor's meeting - 10am  World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character  Year 3-4 Bikeability
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	PE kit

## Your lunch menu for the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023
Pizza, potato wedges carrots and peas	Chicken korma, peas and green beans	Roast chicken, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Sausage, mashed potato, peas and carrots	Fish fingers, chips, beans and peas
Ice cream	Flapjack	Jelly and custard	Ice cream	Chocolate biscuit

## Star Awards



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

Headteacher's Award	<b>The whole school</b>
Star of the Week Sparks	<b>Zara</b>
Star of the Week Flickers	<b>The whole class</b>
Star of the week Flames	<b>Ewan</b>
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	<b>Sam</b>
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	<b>Emily</b>
Spark to a flame Flames Class	<b>Nina</b>
Mrs Amos award	<b>Jack C</b>
Cook's Award	<b>Oscar</b>
PE Award	<b>Sophie W, Sam, Annie, Olivia, Rosanna, Jack S</b>

## Happy Birthday

A very Happy birthday to Ewan who celebrates his birthday this week.

Annie also celebrates her birthday during the holidays.

We hope you both have a great birthday!



## Lovehearts for Turkey!

Mrs Goldstraw and her daughter Georgia have been busy crocheting love hearts broches to sell to raise funds for the earthquake victims in Turkey.

They are £2 each and available in school and from Mrs Goldstraw.

So far she has raised £100 which is fabulous!

The Government have also pledged to double any amounts raised.

Thank you to all who have supported this.

You can contact her via facebook to order.

Please help us to raise funds for those affected.



### School fund/ PTA

Last week we made a plea for volunteers to raise funds for our school fund.

We would still be most grateful if any Parents/Grandparents can help but we do appreciate that life is very busy for most and simply cannot spare the time.

If this is the case we wondered if you would be happy to make an annual contribution?

The contributions are entirely voluntary.

We would be hugely grateful if you would make a donation of £10.00 per child per academic year.

This payment can be made on ParentPay and is under payment item "School fund contribution"

Please note that the names of contributing families and the amounts of individual contributions are kept completely confidential . The choice is yours, but with your help we can continue to provide an even richer education for every child.

If you are able to volunteer your time, please contact the school office.

Thank you.

**Donations are  
greatly   
appreciated.**

### Year 3 and 4 Bikeability

Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in a Bikeability training programme on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 9.30 to 11.30.  
The aim of the course is to give children confidence and skills to take to the roads.

Please could all children bring in their bicycles in the morning, their helmets, a warm waterproof, layers and gloves.

We will be closing the school car park at 9am on the morning as the children will be cycling in that area.

As it is also World Book Day that day please could your child come to school in their PE kit initially and their costume to change in to after they have completed their Bikeability course if they wish to dress up.



### Easter at St Leonard's Church

On 30<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 we will be going to church for an Easter service. The children will be invited to wear wacky Easter bonnets so we are asking you to again get crafty this Easter!  
The church is also going to be holding an Easter Saturday "Easter Garden" making morning on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
We will remind you nearer the time.



### Mother's Day Gift donations

We are inviting all of our lovely Mums and Grandma's/Nannies/Nans in to school for a Mother's Day afternoon tea on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30pm to 3.15pm.

There will be cake, coffee, crafting and a rather special performance by the children.

We will also be holding a table top sale/tombola.

If you have any unused gifts or items at home we would welcome any donations of toiletries or any other suitable items.

Mrs Amos has sent out a link to record attendance.

If you would like to come please complete before Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March so that we can get an idea of numbers.

Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/UHmKnyns4N>



## Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance - 90%

## Random reading spot

If you are out and about this half term why not take your reading book with you and do some reading in a random spot.

We absolutely love seeing your pictures of the unusual places you have been reading so please feel free to send them in to Mrs Amos in the office.



**READING IN UNUSUAL PLACES**

## Wildcats!

This is a great opportunity for Girls ages 5-11 to come and get involved in our engaging and fun football sessions.

Recent numbers have been low so it is vital that the numbers improve to support Girls with all their football skills!

Please contact Oliver Walklate, apprentice coach at Stoke City community trust, if you are interested.

[Oliver.Walklate@stokecityfc.com](mailto:Oliver.Walklate@stokecityfc.com)



**WILDCATS CENTRE**

Are you looking for a fun way to get involved with football? Then look no further! Weetabix Wildcats is the place to be!

Weetabix Wildcats is non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age. Most importantly, Weetabix Wildcats is all about having loads of fun and meeting new amazing friends.

To book a place please contact [richard.adams@stokecityfc.com](mailto:richard.adams@stokecityfc.com)

Stoke City Football Club  
**Community Trust**

 Every Friday

 Girls aged 5 - 11 Years Old

 5.00pm - 6.00pm

 Discovery Academy,  
Discovery Drive,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 0GA

 Free

## Pyjama Day!



## Packed lunch requests for Poole's Cavern trip

If your child requires a packed lunch for the trip to Poole's Cavern please complete the form on the link below and before Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ndbvfmcHeG>





## Dates for the diary

### Spring Term 2023

Term ends - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Term starts - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

World Book Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Year 3 and 4 - Bikeability - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Whole school trip to Poole's Cavern - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Mother's Day activity and tea afternoon Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March - 1.30pm - 3.15pm

Term ends - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Easter holidays - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term

Term starts - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

May Day - 1<sup>st</sup> May

Coronation celebration at Manifold Primary School - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

King's Coronation bank holiday - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Term ends - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Term starts - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Term ends - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

The list of dates is not exhaustive at this time of the year . We will, of course, keep you up to date.



Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Our top ten tips outline how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage.

In the guide you'll find a number of potential benefits including a sense of achievement, learning about teamwork and encouraging creativity.

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.

# 10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

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## THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. These emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

## ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

## SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fall or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance; striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

## REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

## A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

## PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

## THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

## TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity; it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

## ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

### Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. His work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/online-safety/online-safety-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf>

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## Assembly with local artist Rachel Evans

On Wednesday we had a visit from local basket weaver, Rachel Evans. Rachel is part of the Heritage Craft Association and makes heritage baskets for museums and TV.

Rachel made the basket for the Mary Anning statue in Lyme Regis. She told the children that it was a French style basket that may have been used for collecting snails.

The Mary Anning statue was made by a sculptor from Leek. Tray, the dog, was modelled on a dog from Leek.

Rachel showed the children a variety of baskets that she had made. A Gower cockle basket was a reproduction of only one real one left in the whole world. It was used to carry cockles and was carried on the cockle pickers head. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing the art and the materials of basket making. It showed them a different way of earning a living.

If you would like to see more of Rachel's work you can visit her website;

<https://www.wheatcroftwillow.co.uk/>

If you would like to learn the art of basket weaving Rachel runs workshops too.

If you are interested please email;

[WHEATCROFTWILLOW@GOOGLEMAIL.COM](mailto:WHEATCROFTWILLOW@GOOGLEMAIL.COM)





# FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUBS

**Come and join us for some sports, games and activities from February 20 - 24.**  
Our action-packed program gives children the chance to remain active, develop skills and make new friends within a safe and secure environment.

**We are inclusive!**  
We value the importance of accommodating children, aged 4-12 years old, who come to us from different backgrounds. Everyone is challenged and provided with an enjoyable experience.

**Search for your venue: [asmsports.co.uk](http://asmsports.co.uk)**



Combat Sports



Alternative Sports



Arts & Crafts



Multi-Sports



Team Building

**READ OUR REVIEWS**  
★★★★★

**Each day will be themed alongside our regular sports & activities.**

- Monday Football Masterclass**
- Tuesday Scoot Skills**
- Wednesday Football Masterclass**
- Thursday Olympic Festival**
- Friday Mini-Medics**

Visit: [www.asmsports.co.uk](http://www.asmsports.co.uk)

Call: 01782 366332

Email: [info@asmsports.co.uk](mailto:info@asmsports.co.uk)



From  
**£10.00**  
per day





### Phone calls home

This term we have been overwhelmed by the fantastic work of the children. Their attitude to learning and their behaviour has been amazing.

They have produced some wonderful pieces of work which for a lot of the children has earned them a phone call home.

We would just like to thank the parents for taking the time to take the calls from your little ones. We know the school number showing up on your phone may fill you with panic so we're always conscious to let you know we are not calling for a negative reason as soon as you answer the phone.

The children love earning their phone calls home and it's amazing what the power of a positive phone call home can do both for the children and the parents.

So once again thank you for your time and well done to the children for all their hard work.



### Strike action

The next teacher's strike is due to take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

St Leonard's will however be open as usual.



### Reminders

Please could we remind parent to send in an old shirt for your child to wear for the art and DT lessons.

Also please clear any outstanding debts on Parentpay. This is especially important at this time of the year as we are approaching the end of the financial year.

Any outstanding debts affect the school budget directly and balancing a school budget is challenging at the best of times!

Your cooperation is appreciated.

### Tremors and Treasure

Next term's learning quest is all about "Tremors and Treasure".

Pupils will experience the awe and wonder of treasure and decide for themselves what they consider 'treasure' to be. They will learn of the locally discovered 'treasure' the Staffordshire Hoard and study it to gain inspiration for artwork, using pattern and print.

Pupils will learn about treasure in story books and the pleasure of reading and writing adventure stories. In Geography children will develop their understanding of maps and following directions to locate hidden treasure. Pupils will design treasure hunts for others. They will extend his learning applying it to programming a robot to follow instructions to find treasure. They will also learn about some of the Earth's geological wonders including the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Roman Times. They will develop understanding of volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and their impact on humans and the environment building on their knowledge of rocks and soils.

They will study the 'treasure' of the natural world through the scientific study of plants becoming experts in the plants of the school environment. Pupils will be surprised to learn about the 'edible' plants all around them.

Pupils will design and make a treasure box to keep their treasures after a study of hinges and a 'hinge hunt' around school. They will learn about how to look after the treasure of 'themselves'.

Pupils will learn about the greatest treasure of all for Christians, the Easter story and Jesus' resurrection bringing salvation to all.

In contrast they will learn that those without treasure are living in poverty, discovering how and why this happens and what they can do in the world to help.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

This year's World Book Day theme is

"You are a reader"

In the age of digitalisation it is important to encourage children to read books to help them see the value of literature.

There are many benefits to reading, such as increasing and expanding your vocabulary, heightening your empathy, and improving your concentration.

While dressing up is a fun part of World Book Day, that's not why we celebrate it. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore different genres and develop a passion for reading.

Please could Year 3 and 4 children bring their costumes with them to change in to after Bikeability.



## After school club

This week the children have been curling in after school club!

Curling is a fun sport that develops balance and coordination—plus, kids will love that shouting is key. No indoor voices required!



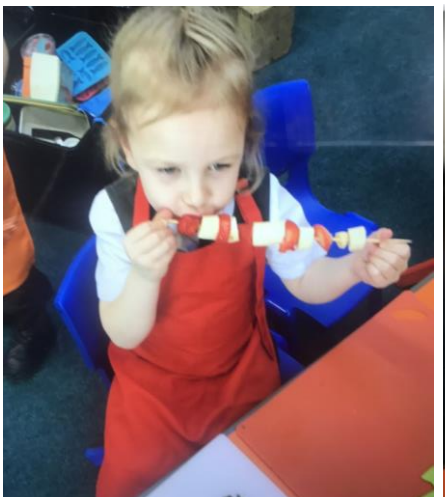
## Sparks

This week Sparks class have been feeling the love! They have made lots of beautiful Valentine's hearts for display in the classroom and to send home to their Valentines!

They have also been using love hearts to subitise.

Subitising is the ability to look at a small number of objects and instantly recognise how many objects there are without needing to count. This time it was dots.

They made fruit kebabs using strawberries and bananas and very much enjoyed the end result!



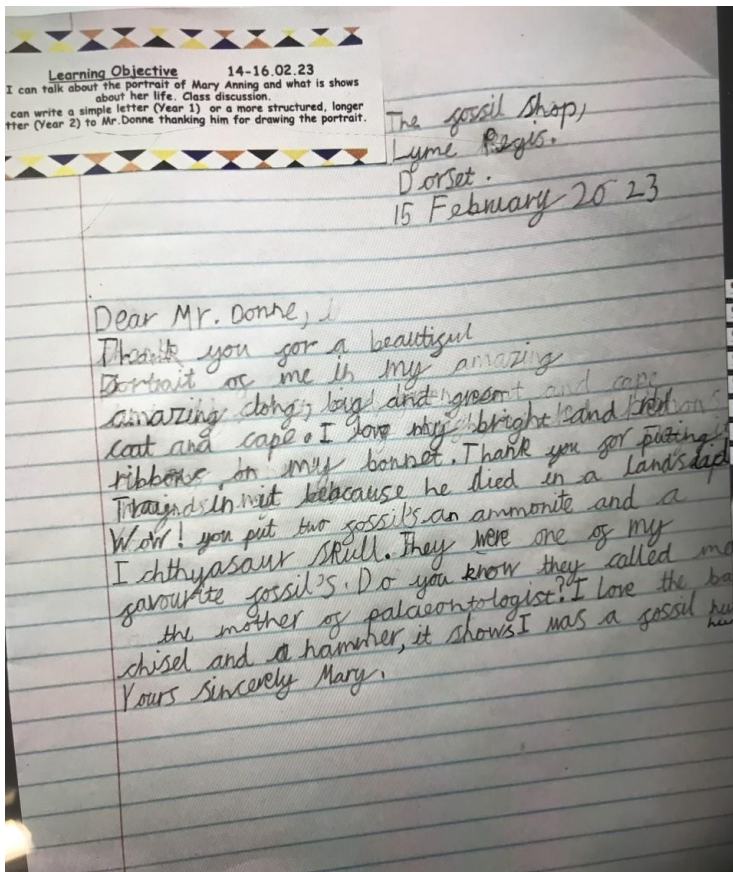
## Flickers

Thank you once again to Harriet and her family who provided all the log discs for their dinosaur eyes. Harriet even helped to cut them herself!

They have also been writing letters to Mr Benjamin Donne, a friend of Mary Anning's who drew a portrait of her in 1847.

The letters the children have written have been fabulous!

Mrs Appiah was impressed with all their work but chose Corah Rae's to share as a fantastic example of Flickers hard work.





## Flames

Flames class have been finishing off their Stone Age Farms and they have built Stone Henge too!

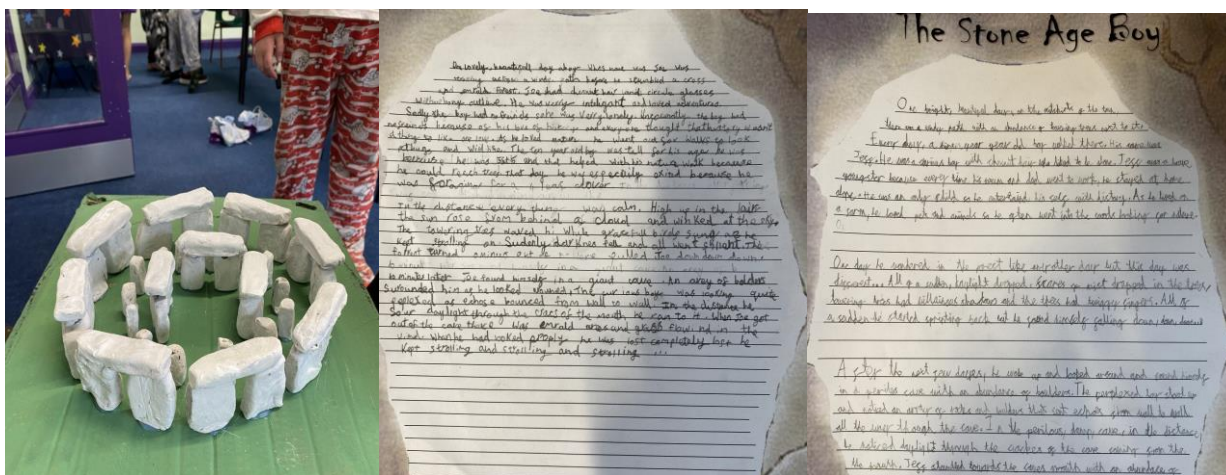
They learned how it was made a little bit like lego!

They used blue stones, sarsans and lintels to construct their model as they did in 2500BC.

The blue stones are the smaller stones are in the middle of the Stone Henge circle. The sarsons are the larger stones around the edge and the lintels are the stones that lie horizontally top of the larger vertical stones, the sarsons. On top of the sarsons are the lintels.

They have also been re writing "The Stone Age Boy" in their own words and practising setting descriptions.

After half term Flames class will be practising the art of dyeing materials using natural sources. Would it be possible for you to send in a plain white t shirt for the process. Thank you.



Random act of kindness

Friday was "Random act of kindness day"

We had a lovely visit from Tiny Tots who had made a card for the school as a random act of kindness.

It was a lovely surprise!

Thank you.

