



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


Friday 31st March 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 17 th April 2023	Full uniform
Tuesday 18 th April 2023	Full uniform
Wednesday 19 th April 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit
Thursday 20 th April 2023	Full uniform 9.30am - School photographs, Graduation, leavers and class
Friday 21 st April 2023	PE kit

Your lunch menu for the 17th April 2023 - 21st April 2023

Monday 17 th April 2023	Tuesday 18 th April 2023	Wednesday 19 th April 2023	Thursday 20 th April 2023	Friday 21 st April 2023
Macaroni cheese, carrots and peas	Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots	Roast gammon, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Beef bolognaise	Fish fingers, chips, beans and peas
Shortbread	Chocolate sponge	Oatie biscuit	Secret brownie	Ice cream

Star Awards



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

Headteacher's Award	Kallum
Star of the Week Sparks	Sam
Star of the Week Flickers	James
Star of the week Flames	Oscar
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	Sophie
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	Dottie
Spark to a flame Flames Class	The whole class
Mrs Amos award	Taya
Cook's Award	Darcy, Eleanor B
Writing Award	Kallum, Corah-Rae, Annie
PE Award	Charlie, Elise, Jack C, Sam, Annie, Rosanna, Ewan

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Zara, Elise, Eleanor and Nina who will all be celebrating their birthdays over the Easter holidays.

We hope you all have an excellent time celebrating.



School photographs

On Thursday 20th April AP Photography will be visiting to take Graduation, leavers, and class photographs.

Please ensure that all children are wearing full uniform and bring their best smiles!



Mystery Guest

On Monday Flickers class enjoyed a lovely visit from a "Mystery Guest!".

The mystery guest turned out to be.....

James' Mum, Mrs Richardson, who very kindly volunteered to come in to read a story to Sparks and Flickers class.

Mrs Richardson chose the book "The Golden Treasure", a tale about two friends on the adventure of a lifetime!

The children listened intently as they learned from the moral of the story that sometimes your greatest treasure is one you have all along.

Mrs Richardson had brought in a treasure chest. James opened the treasure chest to reveal an abundance of gold coins!

The children all had a special treat from the treasure chest and Mrs Richardson even donated the brand new book she had brought in to school, which was very kind of her.

Thank you so much, the children loved it.

Special thanks also to Mr Richardson who has given each of the children a special Easter treat as a thank you for entering the fossil drawing competition.

Thank you to James' parents for being fab!

If you would like to be a mystery guest, please contact Mrs Amos to arrange but don't tell the little ones!!!



Easter activities

What's on in Staffordshire?

Easter Trail at Tittesworth Water

The Easter Bunny has left a trail of eggs around the Foster's Trail at Tittesworth Water.

Follow the route to find the eggs and answer the questions. Once completed return to the Visitor Centre to receive your prize!

(Non-chocolate alternatives will be available.)

No need to book, just come to the Visitor Centre to buy your activity sheet.

£3 per trail sheet, each completed trail sheet will receive one prize.

The trail follows Foster's Trail which is a 3km (2 mile) loop which is pushchair friendly.

Dates - 1 Apr 2023 to 16 Apr 2023 Open 10:00 - 16:00

Easter Trail at Ilam Park

Our exciting Easter trail, leads you across the park and garden, completing spring and nature themed activities along the way.

£3 per child / trail, (which includes a chocolate egg, or vegan and free from options).

Dates - 1 Apr 2023 to 16 Apr 2023 Open 10:30 - 15:00

Easter Egg Hunt at Biddulph Grange Garden

The annual Easter Egg Hunt returns.

Follow the trail around the garden, there are 10 activity stations for you to enjoy; including potting a seed to take home, cloud spotting and welly wangling.

Once you have completed the trail and had lots of fun, you can claim your chocolate prize.

Easter Egg Hunt trails £3 each, includes a chocolate prize.

(Normal admission prices apply)

Dates - 1 Apr 2023 to 16 Apr 2023 Open 10:00 - 17:00

Easter Dinosaur Egg Trail - Coombes Valley

Armed with the dinosaur's explorers trail sheet, find the 7 dinosaur eggs hidden in the woods around our self-guided trail. Tell us where the eggs are and when you've found out which dinosaur laid which egg then pick up your reward from the visitor centre.

£4 per child, pay on arrival

Dates - 1 Apr 2023 to 16 Apr 2023 Open 10:00 - 15:00

Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance 97.6-%

Best kept village competition



**CHILDRENS POSTER COMPETITION FOCUS FOR 2023 –
BKVC AND/OR KINGS CORONATION**

CASH PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS!

THE CLOSING DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 10TH APRIL!

Please send your entries into Judith Ward;

ipstonespc@hotmail.co.uk

IPSTONES METHODIST CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

COFFEE
TOAST
CAKE
& CHAT



April 4th & 18th
10a.m. to 12 noon
In the Schoolroom.
Everyone Welcome.

Random reading spot

It's the school holidays again which means get your reading books out and take them to the most unusual spot you can think of, then settle down for a good read!

We're always excited to see what weird and wonderful places you find to read your books and love receiving the pictures of you doing so.

Please keep them coming!

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
LEARN,
the MORE places you'll go.



Easter at St Leonard's Church



Palm Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion: Ipstones

2nd April 9.30am Holy Communion: Onecote
10.30am Palm procession Memorial Hall Ipstones
11.00am Parents and Children Ipstones

Maundy Thursday: 11.00am Chrism Mass Lichfield

6th April (leave Ipstones 9.30am)
7.30pm Quiet Agape Supper Ipstones

Good Friday: 10.30am Walk of Witness Ipstones

7th April 11.00am coffee, bacon baps Ipstones
12.30pm An hour before the Cross Berkhamstych
2.00pm Stations of the Cross Ipstones
6.00pm An hour before the Cross Onecote

Easter Saturday: 11.00am Children's Easter Garden crafting Ipstones

8th April 7.30pm Easter Fire Service Butterton

Easter Sunday: 10.00am Butterton (with Easter Egg Hunt)

9th April 11.15am Ipstones
3.00pm Onecote

Services in Butterton, Ipstones and Onecote

2nd April 2023

PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Eucharist@ Ipstones

9.30am Palm Sunday Holy Communion @ Onecote

10.30 Palm Procession from Memorial Hall to St Leonards

11.00 Parents and Children Palm Sunday @ St Leonards

3.00 pm Procession and Service @ Butterton

Serving Community
Serving God



Butterton,
Ipstones with Berkhamstych,
Onecote with Bradnop

MAKING MINI EASTER GARDENS

St Leonard's Church

Bring your own stones, moss, flowers etc



**8TH APRIL
EASTER SATURDAY
11.00-12.30**

Serving God Serving Community

Prayer room

We are currently in the process of refurbishing the old computer room into what will be our RE room.

Not only will this room be for RE but it will also be another teaching space (We have secured an additional laptop and interactive whiteboard) and it will also be a reflection space for the children.

It will be a calm place where your children will enjoy a wide range of activities. Prayer spaces enable children and young people, of all faiths, to explore life's questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way.

The room will be open all day and available to the children, staff, parents and the local community should they need it.

We would like to thank Reverend Held who has been busy collecting donations to get the prayer room up and running.

We have received cushions and a beautiful hand-crafted cross that was donated by a member of the local community.

Thank you.



Dates for the diary

Spring Term 2023

Term ends - Friday 31st March

Easter holidays - Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April

Summer Term

Term starts - Monday 17th April

Thursday 20th April - Class, graduation and leavers photographs

Tuesday 25th April - Trip to Poole's Cavern

May Day - 1st May

Coronation celebration at Manifold Primary School - Friday 5th May

King's Coronation bank holiday - Monday 8th May

Tuesday 9th - Thursday 11th May - Year 3/4 Residential trip to Gulliver's Kingdom

Term ends - Friday 26th May

Term starts - Monday 5th June

Tuesday 6th June - Thursday 8th June - Year 3/4 Residential trip to Gulliver's Kingdom

Thursday 22nd June - Victoria Hall concert

Term ends - Friday 21st July

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

National offers day

Monday 17th April 2023 is National offers day.

If you have applied for middle school or for a place in Reception class for September 2023 you will receive the offer of a school place for your child.

If, for any reason, you wish to appeal the outcome you can do via the following link on the Staffordshire County Council website.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissionappeals/home.aspx>

Hopefully this will not be the case and your child will receive a place in the school of your choice.



Welly Wednesday

On Welly Wednesday the children became Metal Detectorists!

They searched on the school on the school field for valuable objects and found their own "St Leonard's Hoard!"

Amongst their treasures they found gold bracelets, Roman, Tudor and Victorian coins and old pottery.

Thank you to Mr Richardson for the loan of the metal detector.



We can access new music and movies in seconds. We can get products delivered to our door the very next day. We can chat or play games with people on the other side of the planet. For all of the remarkable benefits the digital age has brought us, however, it's also presented us with a whole new raft of pressures and anxieties that, in truth, we're all still learning to cope with.

From continual notifications inflaming a fear of missing out to the risk of public embarrassment or slanging matches on social media, today's children and young people have stresses to manage that previous generations simply never encountered. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide examines these uniquely modern worries, highlighting ways to reduce the anxiety that digital devices can bring.

In the guide you'll find tips on reducing push notifications from apps, avoiding social media arguments and spotting when a child's been upset by something online.

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10-15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or a post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, group shaming situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their devices, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having regular, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.

Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report-the-big-ask-big-answers/>
<https://www.hz2.gov.uk/people/popular-and-audience-media/justice/briefing-for-online-safety-for-children-in-England-and-wales-2020>

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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Easter bonnet parade and egg rolling!

What a fantastic array of Easter bonnets!

Thank you to all the children (and Mum's and Dad's) for all the time and effort spent creating these lovely hats.

There is no competition this year, it was "Just for fun!" but they are all winners anyway!

Thank you also to everyone who attended church.



Easter bonnets



Easter egg hunt!

On Friday the children had a secret visitor from someone very special, The Easter bunny!

The Easter bunny hopped into school after the children had all left to deliver their Easter eggs.

The first thing the children knew about it was when Miss Milward and Miss Torr spotted some rather mysterious footage on the CCTV!

The cameras had picked up the covert operation and caught The Easter bunny in the act!

The children were amazed to see video footage of the illusive Easter bunny especially when he did a little dance for them!

They followed clues that he had left which led them to Easter treats dotted around the school.



Sparks

This week Sparks class have been using lots of Easter activities to do their learning.

They have been finding the Easter bunnies that were hiding in the rainbow grass and putting them in numerical order, they have made beautiful Easter cards and they have written to the Easter bunny to ask him to hop in to school to drop off chocolate for their Easter egg hunt.

They have also been learning about old toys and playing with Victorian dolls, wooden cars and a cup and ball toy.

They found all the right colours for their treasure in the treasure chest using dabbers to match the colours and numbers and lastly they made egg cress sandwiches using the cress they had grown themselves. They shared their tasty treats with Mrs Stanesby who enjoyed them very much!



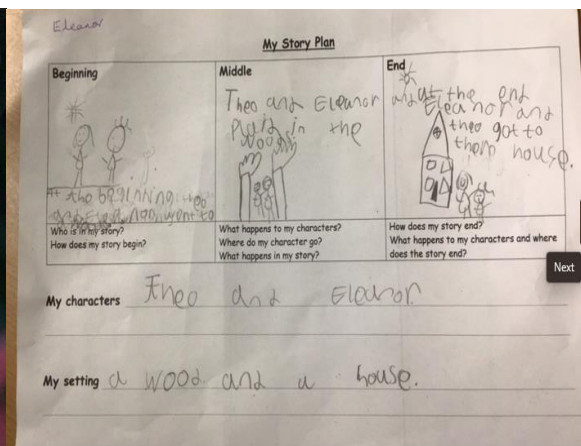
Flickers

Flickers class were really excited to find a treasure hoard on Welly Wednesday. They couldn't believe that the school had all that treasure buried in the school field without anyone knowing for all that time! They cleaned it all up and displayed it in their classroom.

They have been creating story maps to plan out and structure their own stories. The story maps help them plot the beginning, middle and end of the story, the characters, the setting and the theme. They have worked really hard and created some fabulous stories from their imagination.

They made hinged boxes! They have been learning about hinges so they used what they had learned to attach opening lids. They all worked perfectly.

Lastly, they have made some beautiful Easter cards integrating their learning about hinges by making an opening Easter egg to reveal a little chick inside.



Flames

Flames class have been learning about Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius.

They learned that in A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius volcano erupted. It spewed smoke and toxic gas 20 miles into the air, which soon spread to the town. Almost overnight, Pompeii and many of its 10,000 residents vanished under a blanket of ash. They have been reading the book "Escape from Pompeii". It tells the story of two friends who witness the destruction of their city.

They have been making their own volcanos using mod rock, pipe, and chicken wire. After half term they will make their volcanoes erupt!



Happy Easter!

From all at St Leonard's we hope you enjoy a lovely Easter break.

See you back in school on Monday 17th April.

