



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


Friday 10th November 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 13 th November 2023	Full uniform
Tuesday 14 th November 2023	Full uniform
Wednesday 15 th November 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit
Thursday 16 th November 2023	Full uniform 10.00am - Full Governor's meeting
Friday 17 th November 2023	Dress down for children in need

Your lunch menu for the 13th November 2023 - 17th November 2023

Monday 13 th November 2023	Tuesday 14 th November 2023	Wednesday 15 th November 2023	Thursday 16 th November 2023	Friday 17 th November 2023
Sausage and mash	Chicken and rice	Roast of the day, mashed and roasted potatoes	Pasta and bolognaise	Fish fingers, chips
Ice cream	Shortbread	Jelly	Banana custard	Chocolate shortbread

Children in Need - Friday 17th November 2023

Dress down for Children In Need on Friday 17th November. This year's theme is "Spotacular".

Please ensure the children wear clothing suitable for PE.

If you would like to donate you can do so via:

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>



Christmas Coffee Morning

On Tuesday 19th December we will be holding a Christmas coffee morning at school!

All are welcome to join us from 9.00am - 10.30am.

There will be a few stalls and the children will be singing Christmas songs.

We will leave out the free spare uniform bank for you to peruse and help yourself if you can make use of any items.

The children are invited to dress down on Friday 15th December for a donation of chocolate for prizes for our little fayre.

We look forward to seeing you for coffee, cake and a festive singalong!



Christmas Show - Thursday 7th December - 6.00pm

This year our Christmas Show is called "Straw and Order".

" In a courtroom in the middle of Bethlehem... The cows feel pushed out of their stable and they want it back! The donkeys, accused of having invited over a whole host of people, including a baby, deny all charges. Fed up by their petty squabbles and confused by the nature of the case, Judge Grumps is far from happy."

We will again be holding the event at The Memorial Hall.

Tickets are available to purchase from Monday 13th November. At present they are limited to three tickets per family due to the capacity of the hall. However, requests for additional tickets will be dealt with after 27th November, giving everyone chance to purchase their tickets in the first instance.

They are £5 each and available to purchase via ParentPay. Tickets will be sent home in your child's bag. Small children will also need tickets due to the health and safety regulations of The Memorial Hall.

The children have already started rehearsing and have been allocated their parts!

We will let you know about costume requirements over the next few weeks.

Introducing our stars;

Naz the narrator - Dottie, Nina

Judge Grumps - Megan

Mrs Proper - Corah-Rae

Miss Correct - Lili

Two policemen - Sam, Elijah

Cows - Dylan, Sophie W

Donkeys - Ursula, Rosanna

Stanley - Kallum

Mrs Innkeeper - Annie

Inkeepers - Emily, Rosa Bella, Tobias

Mary and Joseph - Zara, James

Three wise men - Eva, Jack and Harriet

Two quiz masters - Taya, Kallum

Two shepherds - Charlie, Jacob

Sheep - Ezme, Olivia, Eleanor F

Angels - Reception class

Travellers - Sophie F, Darcy, Eleanor B, Elise

IPSTONES METHODIST CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

COFFEE, TOAST, CAKE & CHAT

November 14th

& November 28th

10a.m. to 12 noon

In the Schoolroom.

Everyone Welcome.



Lost PE hoodie

Please could you check at home to see if you have gained an age 7-8 PE hoodie. It belongs to Lilly Evans and is labelled.

It just seems to have disappeared in school so we are reaching out in case it's made its way to the wrong home.

Thank you.

Family pictures

Miss Milward has asked if all Reception class children can bring in family pictures please.

They will be creating family trees with them.

Thank you.



Random reading spot

Thank you to Jacob and Elijah for this lovely picture of them sharing a love for reading together in their Marvel inspired bedroom.



Mystery Reader

Would you like to surprise your little one in school by becoming a "Mystery Reader?"

We are inviting parents into school to read a story to the children at the end of the day.

The children have loved their surprise visitors so far. If you feel you could spare the time and would like to read to the children at the end of the day, please let Mrs Amos know. You would need to come to school for 3.00pm.

Remember though;

Mum's the word!



Raffle tickets

The children have been sent home with raffle tickets for our Christmas raffle.

The tickets are £1 a strip and should be returned sold or unsold no later than Monday 18th December. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 21st December,

You can win Stoke City match tickets, Emma Bridgewater ware, a Hetty's tea room voucher and much more.

If you require any more tickets please contact Mrs Amos or Mrs Crooks.

Thank you for your support.



Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -97%

Please remember to let the school know before 9.00am if your child will be absent from school.

If your child has suffered from sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must remain absent from school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea.

Wherever possible please try to arrange dentist and doctors' appointments out of school hours. We appreciate this is not always possible but it does affect your child's attendance.

Weekly attendance reports are produced and any persistent absences or a low attendance rate will result in communication from the school to ensure all is well and offer any assistance if required.

Thank you.

Wonderful World

This term's learning quest is "Wonderful world"

This learning quest builds on from the fabulous farming quest extending knowledge and understanding of the world beyond children's own localities. They will explore the rich diversity of the world we live in, gain a deeper knowledge of World Geography and History and develop an environmental consciousness to protect our wonderful world.

This quest aims:

To deepen pupil's understanding of what it means to respect others and their world.

To develop their geographical world knowledge and their Historical understanding of ancient civilisations of other countries.

To develop their world knowledge through the study of other places in the world and develop their Historical understanding of how people in the past learnt of new places in the world through exploration.

To develop their research skills to learn about how the planet is changing the lives of people and animals.

To appreciate and understand different traditions and cultures through the study of a small village in Mexico in comparison to the village of Ipstones.

To understand the diversity of people and the amazing science of the Human Body.

To know about the environmental challenges facing the world.

To understand their role in the protection of our planet and its living things and how amazing pieces of art and design can be achieved through recycling and upcycling of junk materials.

To apply their understanding to make active changes in their own lives, school life and in their community acting as courageous advocates and by developing their own spirituality.

To explore the birth of Jesus and how this is important for Christians and therefore the way they treat our wonderful world.

To represent world diversity through digital art.



An amazing tribute!

A very big well done to Mrs Goldstraw, her daughter Georgia (Romily's mum) and the community for the wonderful tribute for Remembrance Day.

Mrs Goldstraw, Georgia and members of the community have been crocheting poppies for the display. Mrs Goldstraw constructed the figure of the soldier resting on the bench outside The Memorial Hall. It has attracted lots of admirers and provoked thoughts of all who fell in the war.

Well done to all involved.



Remembrance service

On Friday the children attended a Remembrance service at St Leonard's cemetery. They listened intently to the service, read readings and sang "We will remember". They laid the crosses to remember the fallen soldiers.

Again their behaviour was impeccable.

Thank you to all who attended, the bugle players, the British Legion flag bearers and to Reverend Jane for a lovely touching service.



Parking

As you may notice Highways maintenance has painted yellow zig zag lines outside the school. They have also painted back the white chevrons on the small area in front of the communal gardens. The highway code states that "If the area is bordered by a broken white line, you should not enter the area unless it is necessary and you can see that it is safe to do so" and "It is an offence to stop or wait in your vehicle outside a school where the road is marked with yellow zig-zag lines."

This is as a result of the school raising an issue with parking and the safety of the children and access for emergency vehicles.

We have also received concerns from parents about the speed of traffic on the school run.

Please could you take heed and be cautious of your speed when dropping off and collecting your child and not park in these areas. The area will be cordoned off and monitored.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Admissions

Just a reminder that the admission application process is now open as of 1st November.

If your child is due to start Reception or Middle School in September 2024 you can apply for your child's place via the Staffordshire County Council website, admission to primary and middle schools.

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

The deadline to apply for your child's place is 15th January 2024.

National offers day when you will find out your child's school place is 16th April 2024.

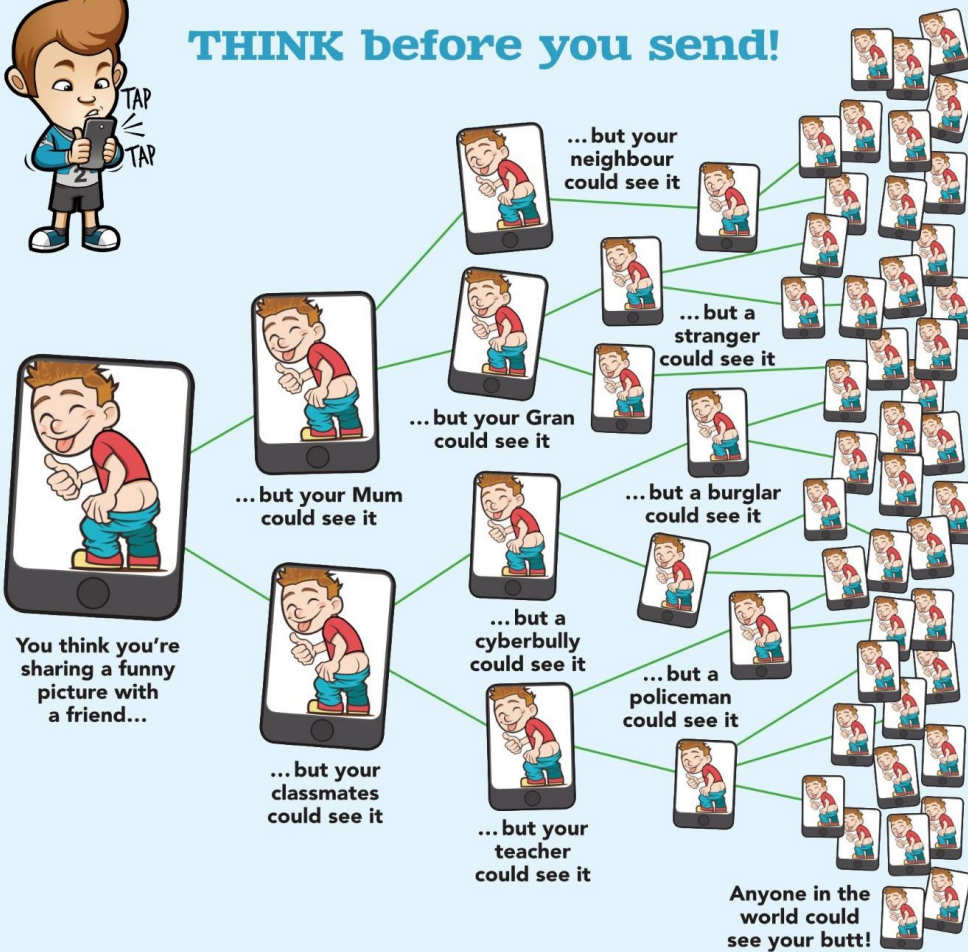


Think before you send

Parent Guides to Online Safety



THINK before you send!



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



If you share it, you are involved

If you have, or forward an indecent image of someone under 18, it is a criminal offence. It can affect your future.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



National online safety

Around 35 million X users are under 18 so it's essential that parents and carers stay up to date with the changes made to Twitter since its reinvention as X - and the online safety hazards these alterations might pose, including exposure to explicit content and unpleasant behaviour.

That's not to say, however, that X is a ruined platform: a more cautious approach can still enable young people to navigate it comparatively safely. This week's guide suggests some steps that can help children avoid common pitfalls - both new and old - on X.

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 apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about X

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform - not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new For You page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow - meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat take account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account - either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing - so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GCRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iGN and Techradar.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.11.2023

Welly Wednesday

On Welly Wednesday the children took part in a barefoot sensory walk to concentrate on the senses in keeping with our "Wonderful World" learning quest.

They walked through pellets, sand, jelly and ice. They then wrote about how they felt under their feet. A good time was had by all!



Dates for the diary

Friday 17th November - Dress down for Children In Need

Friday 24th November - 2.00pm - Advent service

Friday 24th November - Ipstones Lights Night

Friday 1st December - Christmas trip to The New Vic Theatre to watch The Nutcracker -Late lunch on return to school

Thursday 7th December - Christmas show at The Memorial Hall

Thursday 14th December - Christmas trip to the National Adventure Farm - All day

Friday 15th December - Dress down day

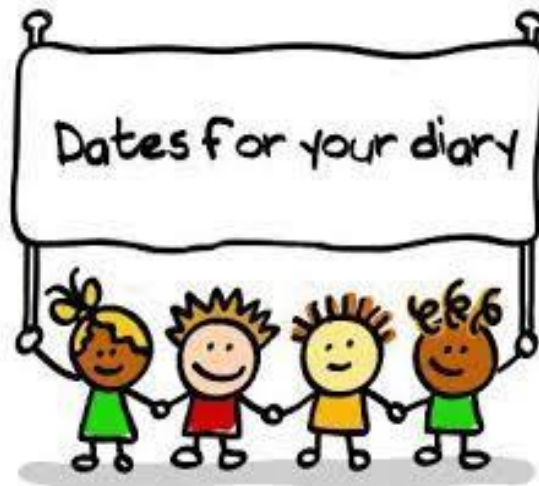
Tuesday 19th December - Christmas coffee morning

Thursday 21st December - Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

Friday 22nd December - 9.15am - Christingle service

More dates and confirmation to follow.

Dates may change.



2023 - 2024 Term dates

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 6th November

Term ends: Friday 22 December

Holiday: Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

Spring Term 2024

Inset Day : Monday 8 January

Term Starts: Tuesday 9 January

Holiday: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 31 March

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April

May Day: Monday 6 May

Holiday: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term Ends: Friday 19th July

Holiday: Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August



Sparks

Sparks class this week made edible sparklers for Bonfire night. They melted chocolate then dipped in their breadsticks and then they finished them off with hundreds and thousands sprinkle. They then ate the whole thing, not a crumb was left!

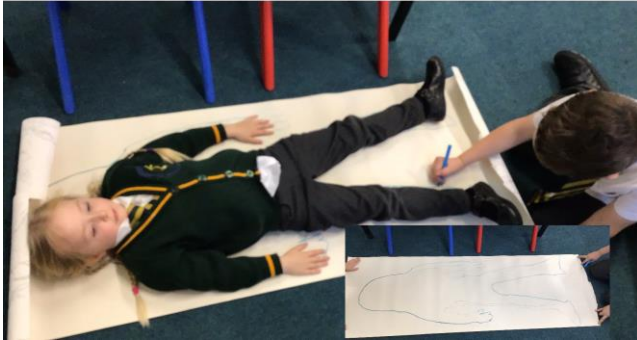


Flickers

This week Flickers class have been drawing around their peers and labelling parts of the body.

They have been printing poppy pictures using potatoes as stumps to make a poppy wreath and they have been studying Tocuaro in Mexico in their Geography lesson.

They thought what they would like to ask the Mexican people about how they lived so they could compare any differences to their lives in the UK.



Flames

Flames class have been creating poems about Remembrance Day.

They learned about what happened on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

They thought about how the soldiers would be feeling. They all agreed that they were very brave to protect our country and our future. They studied "In Flanders field" by John McCrae and took inspiration from there.

On the walk up to the church for the Remembrance service the poems were stapled to lamp posts for the community to read.

