



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


Friday 1st March 2024

'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 4 th March 2024 | Full uniform |
| Tuesday 5 th March 2024 | Full uniform |
| Wednesday 6 th March 2024 Welly Wednesday  | Welly Wednesday PE kit |
| Thursday 7 th March 2024 | Dress up for World book day Mother's day treat - 1.30pm - 3.15pm |
| Friday 8 th March 2024 | PE kit |

Your lunch menu for the 4th March 2024 - 8th March 2024

| Monday 4 th March 2024 | Tuesday 5 th March 2024 | Wednesday 6 th March 2024 | Thursday 7 th March 2024 | Friday 8 th March 2024 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Pizza and wedges | Sausage and mash | Roast of the day, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage | Poetry pie and supertato (Chicken pie and mash) | Fish fingers and chips |
| Shortbread | Sponge | Chocolate mousse | Chocolate cake | Ice cream |

Star Awards



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

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Star of the Week Sparks | Jaycee |
| Star of the Week Flickers | Zara |
| Star of the week Flames | Jack |
| Spark to a flame Sparks Class | Eleanor G |
| Spark to a flame Flickers Class | Eleanor B |
| Spark to a flame Flames Class | Emily |
| Mrs Amos award | Dylan |
| Cook's Award | Maggie |
| PE Award | James, Charlie, Eleanor, Olivia, Rosa Bella, Harriet, Jack, Rosanna |

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Bella's Mum and Dad who got married last weekend.

Bella was a ring bearer with her little sister Violet.

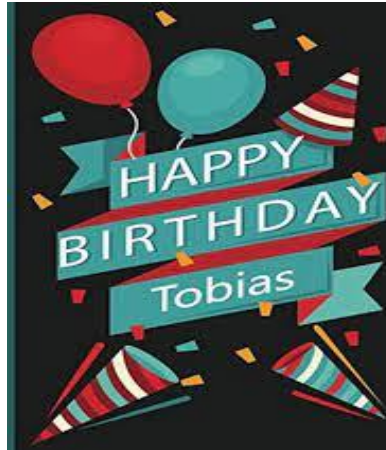
We wish you lots of happiness Mr and Mrs Ward Rowley.



Happy Birthday

A very Happy birthday to Tobias who celebrates his birthday next week.

Have a great day Toby!



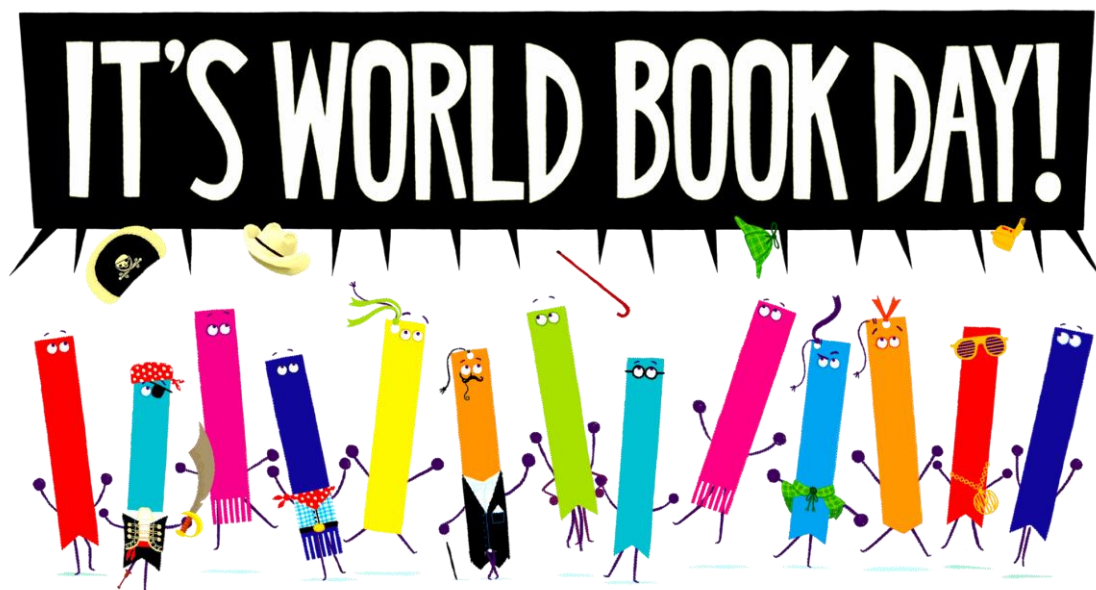
World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school.

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.



Mother's Day

We are inviting Mum/ Grandma's/ Aunties into school on Thursday 7th March. We will be hosting a Mother's Day Treat afternoon from 1.30pm - 3.15pm. There will be activities for you to do with your little ones, refreshments and entertainment from the children.

Please complete the form via the link below to give us an idea of numbers by no later than Friday 1st March

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

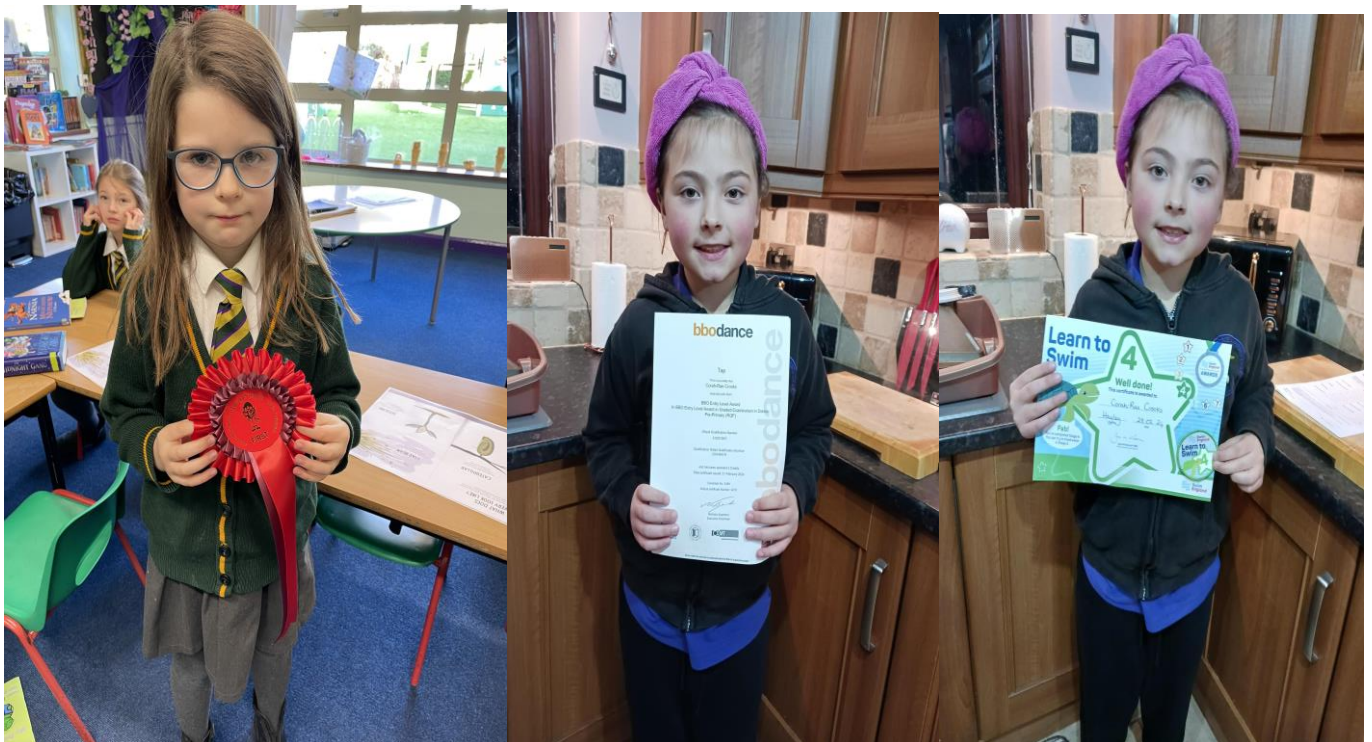


Well Done

A very big well done to Ursula who won first prize at a showjumping competition this weekend.

Ursula rode Casper to victory. Huge congratulations Ursula.

Also, Corah-Rae achieved a merit in her ballet exam and passed her stage 4 swimming certificate. Well done Corah-Rae.



Random reading spot

We have received some more fabulous photos of random reading spots from Eva and Dylan from their reading adventures over the holidays.

Eva took her reading book to The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery and read in a cave and amongst the artefacts and animals.

Dylan read to Iron Man, in McDonalds, in the Wedgwood shop, on a car jack, in a racing car and whilst eating a delicious ice cream.



Leek Town football tickets

On Friday 8th March 2024, the Biggest Ever Football Session is back and we want to celebrate International Women's Day by getting as many girls to all play football on the same day in schools. To help get girls involved in football Leek Town ladies are giving away free family tickets for their match on Sunday 10th March at 3pm.



The poster features a blue background with a large white number '10' in the center. At the top, there are five small action photos of women playing football. The text 'BIGGEST EVER FOOTBALL SESSION' is written in white, slanted letters on the left. On the right, the hashtag '#LET GIRLS PLAY' is written in white. The main title 'Free Leek Town Ladies Family Ticket' is centered in white. Below the title are the logos for Leek Town F.C. and St. Michael's Sports Club. The match details 'Sunday 10/03/2024 | 3pm | F. Ball Community Stadium' are printed in white. A QR code is located on the right side, with the text 'Scan to get your free tickets' below it. At the bottom left, there is a small logo for the FA Women's National League and the text 'Leek Town Ladies play in the FA Womens National League, 3 tiers below the WSL'. The bottom of the poster is decorated with several more action photos of women playing football.

**BIGGEST
EVER
FOOTBALL
SESSION**

**#LET
GIRLS
PLAY**

**Free
Leek Town Ladies
Family Ticket**

Sunday 10/03/2024 | 3pm | F. Ball Community Stadium

Scan to get your free tickets

Leek Town Ladies play in the FA Womens National League, 3 tiers below the WSL.

Chocolate Raffle

We will be holding a chocolate raffle to raise money for the school fund.

We will be putting together a tasty chocolate hamper and Mrs Crooks will be sending raffle tickets out next week. These should be returned by Friday 15th March.

We would be most grateful of any chocolate donations.

Thank you.



Nut free school

We aim to be a nut-free school. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes.

Our nut-free policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
 - Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
 - Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
 - Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
 - Cakes made with nuts
- Any home cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts

What types of food are nuts?

Almonds
Cashew nuts
Hazelnut
Pistachio
Walnuts
Brazil nuts
Nut oils
Peanuts

Parents and carers must notify staff if their child has any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide all medical and necessary information. This will be added to your child's care plan.



Stoke City ticket requests

Please could all ticket orders for the Stoke City match against Norwich on 16th March be returned to school by Tuesday 5th March.

Thank you.



The Big Question

This week's big question was:

"If you could change anything to make the world a better place, what would it be?"

The children showed a really mature knowledge of world issues choosing "Stop wars", "Stop pollution" and "Stop world hunger" as some of their answers.

They also decided that basic essentials, such as food, should be made more affordable to everyone, that everyone should clean up their litter to protect animals from harmful rubbish, and to make it rain in countries affected by severe drought.

You would have been very proud of their thoughtful answers which were all motivated towards making the world a better place for everyone.



Easter service

On Thursday 21st March you are invited to church for the Easter service starting at 1.30pm. The children will be taking part in a small faith trail and egg rolling beforehand.

The church are also holding an Easter Activity event for children at 3.00pm on Easter Saturday in church.

More details to follow.



IPSTONES METHODIST CHURCH

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

COFFEE
TOAST
CAKE
& CHAT



March 5th & 19th

10a.m. to 12 noon

In the Schoolroom.
Everyone Welcome.

The latest bullying research from the DfE makes for upsetting reading. Almost half (40%) of schoolchildren in the UK have been bullied within the past 12 months - with 21% of them experiencing negative changes to their behaviour, including avoiding going to school. In 15% of those cases, the victim's behaviour suffers to the extent that they are ultimately excluded themselves.

Understanding and honest conversation can be an immense benefit to children who have become the target of bullying - but it's such a delicate subject that it can often be hard for trusted adults to know where (or how) to start. This guide contains ten practical tips for supporting a child who is experiencing bullying.

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.

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying - so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings - perhaps from your own experiences - that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice - and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling - be it anger, sadness, fear or something else - as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "angry" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.



4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences - so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.



5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.



6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers that help your child, depending on the specific situation.



7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.



8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.



9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken - and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.



10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.



Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



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<https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/education/insights/insights/behaviour-in-schools-age-childrens-cyberbullying.pdf>



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Dates for the diary

Thursday 7th March 2024 - World book day

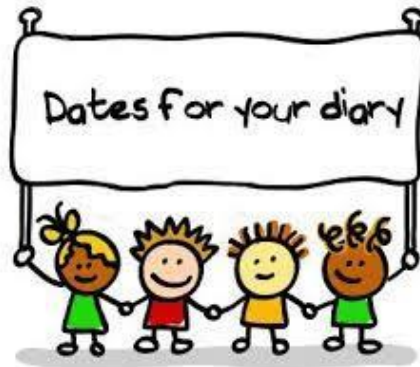
Thursday 7th March - Mother's Day treat - Mum's invited into school - 1.30pm - 3.15pm

Thursday 15th March 2024 - Dress down for Red Nose Day

Thursday 21st March 2024 - Easter lunch

Thursday 21st March - Easter service at church - 1.30pm

Friday 22nd March 2024 - Break up for Easter



2023 - 2024 Term dates

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



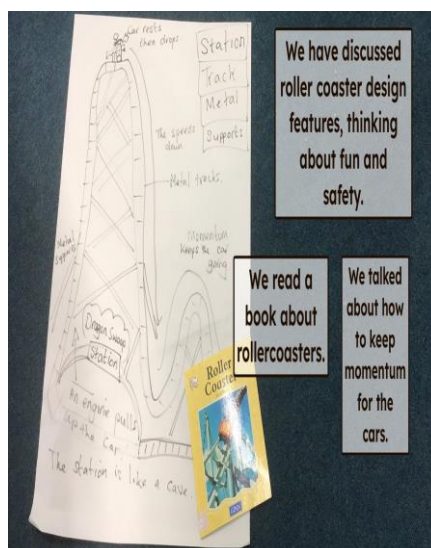
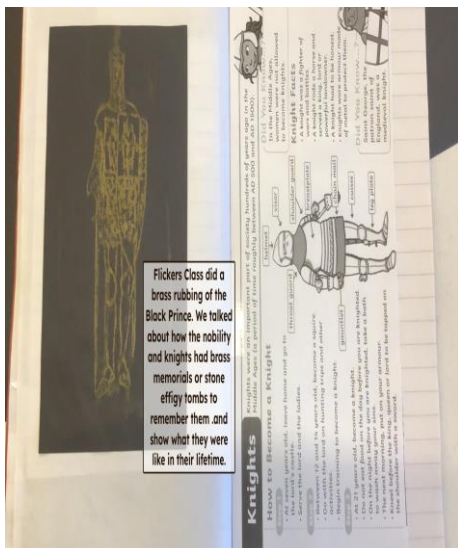
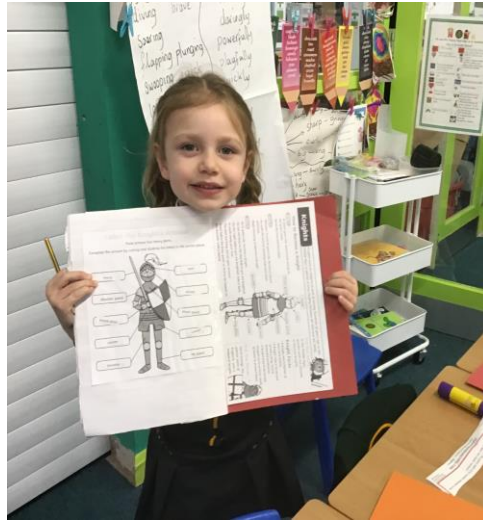
Sparks

This week Sparks class have been making Easter bunnies and chicks. They tried hot cross buns and they spent Welly Wednesday building 3D maps out of natural materials.



Flickers

Flickers class have been designing their roller coasters and learning "How to be a knight". They read the book and looked at their suits of armour. They have been learning the different parts of a castle, such as a drawbridge, moat and the towers, and learning about Alton Castle. They have been doing some fabulous brass rubbings and making their own scrolls at home to retell the story of the dragons in Ipstones a long time ago! They built 3d maps on the school field and have been creating Pugin inspired surprises!



Flames

Flames class have been reading the book "The boy who grew dragons".

"When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house - and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragonfruit tree, and Tomas has got his very own dragon"

The children used a description from the book to create their own dragon fruit plants. They were fabulous. They have also been making circuits in Science. They had to make sure that all the electrical wires were correctly connected to transmit the electricity to light a bulb.

