



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



Friday 10<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 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Full uniform
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 	Full uniform
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit 9.15am - Assembly with local artist - Rachel Evans
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Full uniform
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	PJ Day! Break up for half term - Back in school on Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February

### Your lunch menu for the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
Macaroni cheese, carrots and peas	Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, peas and green beans	Roast gammon, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Beef bolognaise, pasta, peas and sweetcorn	Fish fingers, chips, beans and peas
Ice cream	Heart biscuit	Oatie biscuit	Heart biscuit	Ice cream

## Star Awards



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

Headteacher's Award	<b>Eva, Sam, Eleanor B, Jack C</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>The whole school</b>
Star of the Week Sparks	<b>Eleanor B</b>
Star of the Week Flickers	<b>Harriet</b>
Star of the week Flames	<b>Nina</b>
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	<b>Darcy</b>
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	<b>Ezme</b>
Spark to a flame Flames Class	<b>Oscar</b>
Mrs Amos award	<b>Eleanor F</b>
Cook's Award	<b>Zara</b>
Reading Award	<b>Taya</b>
PE Award	<b>Eleanor, Tobias, Elise, Kallum, Oscar, Lili</b>

## Happy Birthday

A very Happy birthday to Ursula who celebrated her birthday this week.

We hope you had an amazing birthday Ursula!



## Well Done

Ewan is famous! He featured in the local newspaper due to a teamworking exercise to earn a scouting badge.

Ewan is a member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheadle Scout group. They attended an activity day and took part in tent pitching, archery and pioneering to work towards their Chief Scout silver award.

The event organisers were very proud of their Scouting group who marked off various parts of their badge work and displayed some excellent teamwork!

Well Done Ewan!



## A visit from Mary Anning

On Monday Flickers class had a visit from Mary Anning. She showed the children where Lyme Regis is on the map of the United Kingdom and told the children about her life, the fossils she found and the tools and objects that she used. They talked about how Mary was not recognised for her work when she was alive but now she is known as "The Mother of Palaeontology." Her fossils are in museums with her name on them as she discovered and prepared them. Mary has a wonderful statue in Lyme Regis.



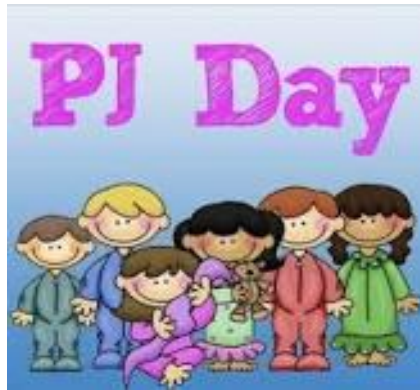
This Wednesday we are very lucky to be joined by local willow artist Rachel Evans who has done an amazing job recreating Mary's willow basket. Thank you to Ursula's mum for helping to arrange it.





### PJ Day!

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, the last day of half term, the children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas. This is a special reward from Mrs Stanesby as they have worked so hard and behaved perfectly this half term.



### Whole school trip to Poole's Cavern

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March we are taking the children to Poole's Cavern in Buxton to learn more about The Stone Age, rock formations and caves.

We will also be going on a nature trail in Grinlow woods and visiting Solomon's Temple.

We will be leaving school at 9am so please ensure your children arrive on time on that day.

We return at 2.00pm so in plenty of time for collection at the end of the day.

Uniform should be worn but please make sure the children have enough layers to keep them warm in the cave (it maintains a temperature of 7 degrees) and a raincoat in the event of inclement weather on our woodland walk.

There is no cost to parents for this trip.

A packed lunch option will be available and communication will be sent out soon for you to order your child's dinner from the school.



## Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance - 95.2%

### Wrapround care outstanding payments

Please could any outstanding payments for breakfast club and after school club be settled by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February ready for the new half term.

If you make payments using tax free childcare vouchers please could you send a screenshot to Mrs Crooks when you have made the payment or an email to advise it has been paid.

This is because it doesn't appear on our Parentpay system.

Thank you

[Crooks.E@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Crooks.E@st-leonards-ipstones.staffs.sch.uk)

**PAYMENT  
REQUIRED**

## School dinners

We have been advised by our catering providers that school meal prices will increase to £2.83 after half term. At present the cost is £2.60.

As you are aware the cost of living is affecting everyone and the price of food and staff continues to rise.

We will of course keep you posted with regards to the price increase after we have received our school budget.

In the meantime you may be entitled to apply for free school meals, even if your child is in receipt of free school meals in reception, year 1 and year 2.

If your application is successful the school will be in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. This is a grant that provides extra financial support aimed to help disadvantaged students have the same opportunities for educational achievement as their peers.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

Here is the link to that Staffs County Council to apply:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/fsmweb/>

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Amos in the office who can also check your eligibility.

Could your child be entitled to a  
**FREE school meal?**



## 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.





## National Online Safety

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 is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily put 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.



## National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf)

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## Help!

We are in desperate need of a school PTA!

At present we have no fundraising volunteers. The staff have been trying to generate income for our school fund but have many other duties within school also. The school fund is used directly to enhance your children's learning experience.

For example, we are taking the children to Poole's Cavern on a whole school trip on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. As this is an educational trip and in keeping with their Stone Age learning quest this will all be funded by the school fund. However, the school fund is dwindling. Without this we will no longer be able to provide learning experiences like this.

More details to follow.

Having a PTA enables the school and parents (and children!) to work together to enhance families' experience of school. It's a group of like-minded people making a difference in the lives of our pupils.

We are inviting all parents to get involved in different ways, based on your interests and availability. A little effort from a lot of people can make a big impact.

The PTA is not just about raising money, but also acting as a communication channel between parents, school and local community on shared issues.

If you think you can help please let Mrs Amos know.

We need you!



## Uniform

Please could we remind all parents to clearly label all items of uniform. This includes ties, hats, scarves, wellies, trainers, coats and gloves please. This doesn't have to be with sewn in or iron on labels. You could just write your child's initials in permanent marker.





# 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)**



**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)**





## Sparks

This week Sparks class have been working really hard on their Maths.

They have been counting and measuring, by building towers, playing Maths board games and counting the spaces they moved around the board and they have been measuring each other.

They also had to guess the number in the mystery black bag by touching and feeling.

They have been reading the book "The Cave Baby" by Julia Donaldson.

"A hairy mammoth takes a cheeky little baby on a thrilling ride through a moonlit landscape populated by a sabre-toothed tiger, a leaping hare, a laughing hyena and even, just maybe, by a big brown bear . . . But where are they going? And what has it to do with the baby's scribbblings on the cave wall?"

They painted their own woolly mammoths, sabre toothed tigers and bears.





## Flickers

Flickers class have been making stick structures this week. They used the Christmas trees to make a structure that fit all 20 Flickers class children in!

They have also painted their dinosaur eyes which have been finished with varnish.

These will be mounted on a wooden background which Harriet's mum and dad are very kindly providing. Thank you so much to them.



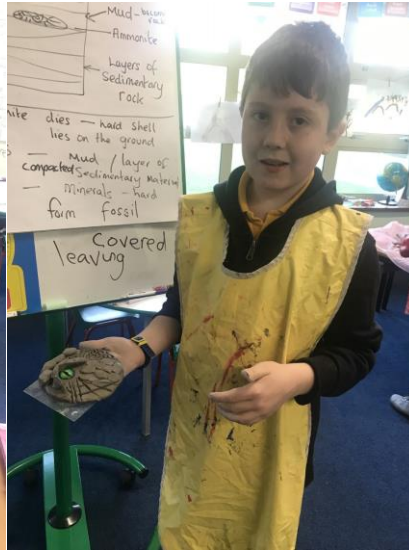


## Flames

Flames class have made their own soil this week! They used organic matter (banana skin, dead leaves and sticks), rocks and water. Once the organic matter has decomposed, they are going to plant and grow seeds to check the success of their soil making!

They recreated how a fossil is formed by layering sedimentary rock, clay, ammonite, and water. The replication will demonstrate how water and minerals fossilise.

They also made their dinosaur eyes like Sparks and Flickers did last week and are waiting for them to dry before they are transformed. Flames class have started making their own Stone Age farms. They are using air dry clay, sticks and moss to recreate the wattle and daub roofs, pebbles to build their walls and toilet roll holders to build the roundhouse.





Flames continued;

