



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

Friday 1st October 2021

'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)

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Stanesby Chair of governors: Mr Matthew Welton

Designated safeguarding lead: Mrs Kelly Stanesby, Deputy safeguarding leads: Mrs Julie Amos and Miss Torr

Weekly Diary

NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Monday 4 th October 2021	Full uniform
Tuesday 5 th October 2021	Full uniform
Wednesday 6 th October 2021 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday, all pupils -PE kit all day
Thursday 7 th October 2021 Census Day	Full uniform
Friday 8 th October 2021 Fitness Friday!	Wear it yellow supporting Young Minds on World mental Health Day

Your lunch menu for the 4th October - 8th October 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetable burrito, peas and carrots	Garlicky chicken, roast potatoes, sweetcorn and broccoli	Roast gammon, roast potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Sausage and mash, peas and carrots	Fish fingers, chips, peas or beans
Oatie biscuit	Sponge and custard	Ice cream	Chocolate sponge	Rice pudding

Covid Update

On Tuesday all head teachers in the Staffordshire Moorlands were invited to a meeting hosted by the Staffordshire County Council Local Authority.

The point of the meeting was to instruct all schools in the Staffordshire Moorlands that they should do all they can and take extra measures to minimise the spread of Covid. We all have to take proactive action to prevent further outbreaks and manage transmission as statistics show an increasing impact of Covid in the age group 0 -15.

Our essential measures are already in place but, as communicated in the week, additional measures have now been introduced as advised by the Local authority.

When we have further instruction from the LA we will let you know but for now thanks you for your continued support in an ever changing environment!

Fame at last!

On a more positive note we made front page news in Wednesday Cheadle and Tean Times!



Admissions to secondary school for September 2022 entry

We know it only seems like two minutes since we have been back but already we are thinking about September 2022!

The admission system to apply for your child's middle school place is open for your applications.

Please note the closing date for your admission application is 31st October 2021.

You can apply online via the following link:

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

National offers day for middle schools is 1st March 2022 where you will find out if your application has been successful for your desired school.

If you encounter any issues applying online you can call Staffordshire County Council on [0300 111 8007](tel:03001118007) and select the option for "School admissions and transport" or email admissions@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Admissions to primary school

The application system will open on 1st November 2021.

Applications will close on 15th January 2022.

18th April 2022- National offers day



Heroes stamp design competition

Whilst sadly we weren't one of the winners for the Royal Mail heroes stamp design competition we have received this certificate for taking part. We are now Guinness World Record holders!

Thank you to all the children who submitted an entry. You're all winners in our eyes!

There were 120 finalists and judges will choose twenty four regional designs as their overall winners.

The entries can be viewed in the following gallery:

https://www.stampcompetition.ichild.co.uk/?dm_i=40SI,1CG34,7DM813,4VPZM,1



Welly Wednesday

On Welly Wednesday the children spent some time on the field investigating what was living in our big old Oak tree.

Mrs Goldstraw shook the tree and all sorts of creatures fell out including bugs, a black and red caterpillar and spiders!

They also found mole hill, berries and toadstools on the school field.

Here are just a selection of their findings.



National Grandparents Day - 3rd October 2021

Grand Parents day is celebrated on the first Sunday in October.

This is a great time to honour your grandparents.

In order to make Grand Parents day as fantastic as possible why not spend some time together doing activities such as;

- Make something especially for you Grand Parents (for example a picture, a poem or a treat)
- Get them to pass on knowledge (learn how to bake your favourite cake or learn how to cross stitch)
 - Interview them (ask them all the questions you'd like answers to about their amazing lives
 - Have a sleepover and watch a film of their choice
 - Get them to play cards with you
 - Make a family tree with old photos
- Switch roles! (Be a Grand Parent for a day, let them relax and you do all the pampering they usually do)
 - Offer to do tasks around the house or garden
 - Make a card and list why you admire them
- Get them to show you old photo albums and tell you all the stories behind the pictures.



Harvest Service

Thank you so much for all your generous donations for our Harvest service. Unfortunately it has been cancelled this week due to current restrictions. However your donations have been collected and will be taken to church for Sunday's service.

Many Thanks



Churnet View open evening

Unfortunately Churnet View have had to postpone their open evening until after the October half term.

Year 4 parents have been sent the following link so you can register your interest for when the event can safely go ahead;

<https://forms.office.com/r/j5ZS2tcqfG>



We have been advised that the open evening for St Edward's Academy is on Thursday 21st October, 6.00pm - 7.30pm.

To register your place please follow the link,

<https://stedwards2022.co.uk/>



Pokemon Go has been among the world's most popular games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown. In Pokemon Go, like the Pokemon TV show, trading card series and other games, players capture, train and battle with their Pokemon creatures. The game generally provides a positive experience but there are still some safety risks to consider.

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 game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about POKÉMON GO

AGE RESTRICTION
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Pokémon GO has been among the world's most popular mobile games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks partly to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown. In Pokémon GO – like the Pokémon TV show, trading card series and other video games – players capture, train and battle with their Pokémon creatures: physically exploring locations while using augmented reality via their phone's screen. The game generally provides a positive experience, but there are still some safety concerns to consider.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Pokémon GO requires players to visit in-game landmarks like Pokéstops and Gyms. These are often situated at public real-world locations such as churches or post offices. Sometimes, however, they can inadvertently end up being placed in dangerous areas which are unsuitable for children, even when accompanied by an adult: near a construction site or a main road, for example.

VISIBLE PROFILES & LOCATION

Pokémon GO players can add each other as 'friends' in the game by sharing their trainer codes. Two trainers who do this can then view each other's information, such as their username. If a username gives any clues to the player's real name or personal details, a stranger may then be able to look them up online. The game also lets users upload images to social media, which could publicly disclose a child's exact location.

STRANGERS & MEETING OFFLINE

Players often cooperate with friends in the game, and there are many online discussion hangouts. As well as sharing tips and info, these groups may arrange to meet offline to catch Pokémon or attend raids (communal events where players flock to the same real-world place for a mass battle). This can put children at risk of being messaged and invited to meet by strangers under the pretence of talking about the game.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game uses a currency called Pokécoins, which can be bought for real money (in bundles between £0.79 and £99.99) and exchanged for in-game items such as Pokéballs and berries. It's extremely easy for a child to purchase Pokécoins (even accidentally) if there's a payment method connected to their mobile phone – and possibly rack up a sizeable bill without realising it!

DATA COLLECTION

When a player logs into their Pokémon GO account, the game collects personal data about the user and their device. Locations, emails, names, ages and even camera images can all be accessed. What then happens to this information is open to debate. Niantic, the game's developers, maintain that they do not sell user information to third parties – but the fact that they have it at all is a concern, nonetheless.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PLAY ALONGSIDE YOUR CHILD

Finding and catching Pokémon with young ones could turn into a great mutual hobby. At 25 years old, it's one of the few games franchises that spans two generations. Enjoying the game together will give you plenty of new things to talk about with your child – and if you played Pokémon in your own childhood, you might impress them with your knowledge of the digital critters!

ENCOURAGE AWARENESS

Remind your child of the physical dangers they could face while catching Pokémon and emphasise staying aware of their surroundings. The game will often alert children (through their phone) when they are close to an interesting Pokémon item – usually sending them excitedly rushing off to find it – so they should never play Pokémon GO near busy roads or in places they don't know well.

DISGUISE THE EXERCISE

One of Pokémon GO's benefits is that it encourages young (and not-so-young!) ones to get exercise outdoors. Some parts of the game can be completed from home, but it's best experienced while walking around your local area. Certain tasks (like visiting Pokéstops) can be repeated every day – and an hour outside having fun catching Pokémon will hardly feel like exercise at all!

USE AN OLDER PHONE

If children use an older phone to play Pokémon GO, then they won't be walking around with their own new device, which could get broken or stolen. Parents are also far less likely to have left a credit card linked to the old mobile. It also means that you can limit the amount of information used to set up an account, and what companies who gain access to your data can do with it.

AGREE PLAY BOUNDARIES

Ensure your child knows where they are (and aren't) allowed to go searching for Pokémon, when they have to be home, and how often they can play the game. Talk to other young Pokémon GO fans' parents or carers to see what boundaries they set for their children. Lunchtimes (if allowed by the school) or after school are ideal times for getting some exercise and catching all those Pokémon!

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and CulturedVulture. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://helmdatasecurity.com/blog/is-pokemon-go-safe/>
<https://bleedingcool.com/games/pokemon-go-announces-quality-of-life-updates-for-february-2021/>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.09.2021

We love reading

Well Done to all those who have continued to read regularly at home this term.

At St Leonard's we want to make sure that our pupils develop a love of reading by enabling them to find and read books they enjoy.

It is very important that they practice their reading regularly and enjoy it. Therefore choose times which suit them when they want to read.

Story time and reading a page each are also good alternatives. Ten minutes a day is ideal.

As a reward for reading regularly at home we will be starting up our popular tea and cake with the head teacher, but this time it will be "Book tasting" tea and cake where children get a chance to look at new books in school and find ones they love. Pupils will earn their place each week by reading regularly.

Please indicate in their reading diary if they have read even if it is a quick signature.

Many Thanks for supporting us in our book loving mission as we know this leads to life long learning.



Online Gaming

Sometimes children disclose things to staff in school that we have to raise as a safeguarding concern.

We have a duty of care to act upon disclosures and we have the well-being of your children at heart.

Whilst we can't stop children from playing games underage please could we encourage parents to be vigilant as to what their children are accessing online.

For example if your child plays Fortnite please be aware it has an age rating of 13.

First of all, while the game looks colourful and pleasant with its cartoonish graphics, the aim of the game is to kill other players and be the last one standing.

You'll use guns and grenades to do this, and while the combat aspects aren't gory or violent, the aim of the game is to be violent.

More often than not, people will play this game using headphones or a headset so that they can hear any would-be enemies or talk to their teammates.

To this end, young players could be exposed to abusive or aggressive language from others while in the game.

World Mental Health Day Sunday 10th October.

We all struggle with how we're feeling sometimes and it's normal to have ups and downs.

This year might have felt a little more down than up. But it's the little things that have got us through it - the morning walks, singing in the shower, the perfect cuppa, that Netflix show that got us all buzzing, the bestie who makes you LOL, the teacher who has your back.

Saying #HelloYellow this World Mental Health Day is a little thing we can do to make a BIG difference to young people's mental health.

Because a little yellow goes a long way.

On Friday 8th October the children are invited to come to school in a yellow top (PE bottoms please) to support Young Minds on World Mental Health Day.



Playground

Exciting news!

The playground is due for completion earlier than expected and should be ready for action when the children come back to school next week.

You will have seen the progress over the last week but we wanted to show you a sneaky peek!

We hope to host an official opening when we can so we will be inviting parents for a look around the new outdoor facilities.



Dates for the diary

Friday 1st October - Harvest Service

Thursday 11th November - Remembrance service

Friday 12th November - Children in need day

Tuesday 16th November - Stoke city city 7's assembly

Friday 26th November - Advent service

Friday 26th November - Christmas market 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Monday 29th December - Christmas tree blessing

Tuesday 30th November - Flu vaccination

Thursday 9th December - Trip to the winter wonderland at the Snow Dome

Friday 10th December - Christmas jumper day

Tuesday 14th December - Aladdin at Buxton opera house

Thursday 16th December - Christmas service and Christmas lunch

Friday 17th December - Break up for Christmas



Term dates

Autumn Term 2021

Inset day: Wednesday 1 September

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September

Half Term: Monday 25 October - Friday 29 October

Term ends: Friday 17 December

Holiday: Monday 20 December - Monday 3 January

Spring Term 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February - Friday 25 February

Term ends: Friday 8 April

Holiday: Monday 11 April - Friday 22 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Monday 25 April

May Day: Monday 2 May

Half Term: Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June

Term ends: Wednesday 20 July

Holiday: Thursday 21 July - Friday 2 September

The previously published last day of term for 2022 was 21 July 2022. This has been altered to 20 July 2022 to take into account the celebrations for the Queens Jubilee.