



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


Friday 14th July 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 July 2023	Full uniform
Tuesday 18 th July 2023	PE kit Whole school seaside trip to Prestatyn
Wednesday 19 th July 2023 Welly Wednesday 	Welly Wednesday PE kit Year 4 Leaver's treat - Pizza and cinema!
Thursday 20 th July 2023	Full uniform 2.30pm - Leaver's service at school - All welcome
Friday 21 st July 2023	PE kit Break up for summer holidays

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

Monday 17 th July 2023	Tuesday 18 th July 2023	Wednesday 19 th July 2023	Thursday 20 th July 2023	Friday 21 st July 2023
Sausage, chips and peas	Whole school trip to the seaside	Roast chicken, mashed and roasted potatoes, carrots and cabbage	Leaver's lunch Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots	Fish fingers, chips and peas or beans
Sponge		Shortbread	Rice krispie cake	Ice cream

Star Awards



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

Headteacher's Award	The whole school
Star of the Week Sparks	Darcy
Star of the Week Flickers	Olivia
Star of the week Flames	Rosanna
Spark to a flame Sparks Class	Zara
Spark to a flame Flickers Class	James
Spark to a flame Flames Class	Ewan
Mrs Amos award	All year 2
Cook's Award	Zara
PE Award	Oscar, Rosanna, Taya, Rosa Bella, Ursula, Sam, James, Dylan, Megan
Reading Award	Annie and Eleanor F
Miss Milward Award	Lily, Romily, Bella, Eleanor, Elijah, Lilly, Autumn, Ava, Maggie, Jaycee

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Eva who celebrates her birthday this week.

Have a fabulous time Eva.



Well Done

A huge well done to all these superstars this week. Eva, Zara, Dylan, Charlie and Eleanor all achieved their Tweens 4, 2 and 1 swimming certificates and Jack also won third prize in the Leek and District Garden show with his lovely painting of poppies.



Gully Mouse

On Tuesday we received a visit from Gully Mouse who had come all the way from Gulliver's Kingdom to deliver some vouchers to the children.

They were a little taken back to see a giant mouse enter the school hall to say the least but after high fives all round they all got over the shock and enjoyed their meet and greet.



Digital Summer activities

The summer holidays are full of opportunities. It's uplifting for children and young people to be freed from the restrictions of their normal weekly timetable - and with the whole holiday to enjoy, there's lots of time to fill. Of course, the challenge for parents and carers is to find activities that are not only educational but will prove popular with young ones! Aside from video games and surfing the internet, there are plenty of edtech (educational technology) avenues for digitally savvy youngsters to explore. Here is a rundown of some of our favourites ...

In the guide, you'll find ideas for sports fans, artists, explorers, avid readers and much more!

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

EdTech

SUMMER HOLIDAY GUIDE

It can be challenging to find holiday activities for digitally savvy young ones. There are plenty of edtech (educational technology) avenues to explore this summer, however, and we've compiled a rundown of our favourites...

For the gamer

There are some excellent free (or cheap) platforms out there which let budding programmers create their own games and characters. Children can discover the basics of game design as they learn how to build characters and make them speak, move and interact with each other. Young ones can construct a game from scratch and then share it with their friends.

Try: Play Lab at code.org • Toca Builders

For the photographer

If your child is an aspiring photographer or loves fine-tuning images before posting them on social media, there are options which young people may find less daunting than Photoshop. As well as editing and adding photos, making illustrations or converting between image formats, some packages are geared towards illustration while others let you work with raster and vector graphics.

Try: Photopea • Sumopaint • PhotoGrid

For the sports fan

Video games are usually seen as reducing the time young people spend exercising. However, there is a genre that encourages physical activity: from music-based games that get users up and dancing, to sports simulators where the controller becomes a tennis racket. Devices' ability to track movement in real time and translate it into a game can make physical activity less of a chore.

Try: Runkeeper • Strava • Zombies, Run! (12+)

For the coder

Online, you can find a selection of programming environments where users can learn to make simple apps. Young people can design an app, code it in JavaScript or work in text-based language, then share their newly created app with friends. With millions of aspiring coders in the world, the internet has an abundance of tutorials to get young ones started.

Try: App Lab at code.org • Dance Party at code.org • Flappy Code at code.org • Hour of Code

For the explorer

Young adventurers can discover the world from new perspectives - strolling Tokyo's streets or soaring over Yosemite. For those with virtual reality headsets, Google Earth VR puts the whole planet within reach, while - even further afield - youngsters can use their device to delve into the wonders of our solar system with virtual tours of NASA's labs and mission control centres.

Try: Google Maps Treks • Google Earth VR • NASA at Home: Virtual Tours

For the avid reader

Your child's smartphone or tablet can become an inspirational learning tool that fires their imagination while improving their reading, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension. Mobile reading apps and audiobook libraries are worth setting some screen time aside for. As well as developing young ones' language skills, they also encourage the unbridled bliss of enjoying a good story.

Try: Hoopla • Epic • Audible

For the musician

Learning to play an instrument and creating music electronically has become much easier thanks to technology. As the field keeps advancing, more software is being created - and there are many applications which are compatible with various devices, including mobile phones. For example, your child could start their journey to becoming a superstar DJ with real-time mixing and editing tools.

Try: Let's Play Kids Music: Summer Musical • GarageBand • Transitions DJ • YouTube music tutorials

For the historian

Virtual tourism boomed when the pandemic cancelled everyone's travel plans. Let technology transport you to jaw-dropping historical sites or inside some of the world's most inspiring museums. Explore the Colosseum or the Amazon rainforest in VR, take a virtual tour of the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park or step inside the British Museum without leaving your living room!

Try: HistoryView Virtual Library • The British Museum • Google Street View • The National Museum of Computing 3D Virtual Tour

For the artist

Unleash your child's creative streak over the holidays with these arts and craft activity ideas! Most are quick and easy to make with materials you'll probably already have at home. There are ideas for young artists of all abilities, so you're sure to find a few exciting projects to try out. Children could also take a virtual tour of some stunning galleries and art installations.

Try: Artist at code.org • Summer crafts for kids at Activity Village • Summer arts and crafts at Projects with Kids • Google Arts and Culture - virtual reality tours you'll love

Meet Our Expert

Gary Reddin is Leader of the Virtual Curriculum at Alt Bridge School, a specialist provision school in Liverpool. He has supported the integration of technology into the teaching practice across the curriculum to empower young people to reach their academic potential and prepare for life beyond school.





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Seaside trip

Please can all children be at school for 8.20am on Tuesday 18th July. The coach will be leaving at 8.30am prompt. We intend to make our way back at 2.30pm, retuning to Ipstones at 4.30pm, traffic permitting, but we will keep you up to date. Should the weather force an earlier return time we will advise you in plenty of time to arrange collection of the children from school. There will be no after school club but staff will remain on site until all children are collected.

Children should be in their PE kit with a sun hat, sun cream and a waterproof coat. They should bring a packed lunch (if not ordered from school) and snacks and drinks to last throughout the day. They will also need a hand towel and please send them with a change of clothes in case they get wet on the beach.



Electric gates

Please be mindful of the vehicle entrance on the school run next Wednesday 19th July. The electric gates are being installed so there may be a small amount of disruption.

Take care when passing and only use the small gate entrance please.

Thank you.



Attendance



Attendance target - 96%

This week's attendance -96%

Big names, challenging opinions and comparatively lenient censorship. Rumble is a video-sharing platform which has achieved stellar growth in recent years - as well as drawing a similarly eye-catching amount of criticism for the views of some of its best-known account holders.

This guide explains, young users of the app (even ones who are over the recommended age limit) may encounter hazards including political bias, potentially harmful misinformation and inappropriate content if they stumble across Rumble.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about RUMBLE

AGE RESTRICTION 12+
on the App Store, 'Teen' on Google Play

A video-sharing platform designed as an alternative to YouTube, Rumble is the epitome of a 'slow burner' in digital circles: it was initially launched in 2013, but it's only in the last two or three years that it's begun to gain serious traction. Much of Rumble's recent growth has stemmed from its association with Truth Social, the platform founded by former US President Donald Trump. Rumble's content frequently reflects some intense political viewpoints; this can often affect the way it approaches topics and has occasionally caused the platform to venture into controversial territory.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS
The company which developed Rumble is also responsible for hosting Truth Social, the often-contentious news and social network founded by Donald Trump. Indeed, Rumble's content often reflects the ideas of one group of US voters, who have embraced it as an alternative to more mainstream social media. Many parents may feel that such an overtly political platform isn't suitable for young people.

PROVOCATIVE CONTENT
Rumble prides itself on championing free speech, with its CEO declaring the platform "immune to cancel culture". Many of Rumble's highest-profile content creators - such as Andrew Tate and Russell Brand - are well known for sharing opinions which are often described as extreme. While adults might be equipped to treat this content objectively, much of it may not be appropriate for a young audience.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL
In very simple terms, Rumble works a little like YouTube but with far fewer censors and restrictions being applied to its content. If age-inappropriate material or potentially harmful misinformation is trending on the platform and being shared among more mature users, there's a distinct possibility that Rumble's algorithm may also recommend that content to a child.

CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES
Many of Rumble's best-known accounts are owned by individuals who have previously been banned from other social media platforms. There could, of course, be a variety of reasons behind this - but it almost certainly increases the chances of your child coming across content on Rumble which probably wouldn't be deemed acceptable on other similar platforms.

SENSITIVE TOPICS
In recent months, some prominent Rumble influencers have expressed uncompromising views on sensitive subjects such as gun control, abortion, LGBTQ issues and more. With many Rumble accounts tending to display a noticeable political bias, the concern would be that young people using the platform may not always be presented with an impartial perspective on these important and complex topics.

THE ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT POLITICS
Rumble does have a team of moderators, but the nature of the platform means that some permitted content is likely to be controversial and highly subjective. That possibility might make many parents uncomfortable - but if your child does view (or hear about) something provocative on Rumble, it can still provide a useful opportunity to discuss politics at home in a safe, relaxed environment.

RESEARCH ALTERNATIVES
No video-sharing platform is totally free from potentially harmful content, of course - but the number of prominent account holders on Rumble whose output has previously been banned from similar services is certainly a cause for concern. If your child is becoming interested in influencer culture or politics specifically, you could perhaps research more family-friendly platforms together.

CHECK UP REGULARLY
Like any video-sharing platform, there's a chance that Rumble might suggest inappropriate content for your child. There may be an algorithm issue - or it could be that the recommendations are based on videos they've previously viewed. If your child uses Rumble, you might consider a chat with them about which accounts they follow and what type of content is suitable for their age.

DISCUSS IMPARTIALITY
Many prominent Rumble accounts wear their political leanings firmly on their sleeves. As a result, it can be tricky for impressionable young people to appreciate both sides of any given debate. If your child is old enough to use Rumble, you may feel that a discussion of some things they've seen might be prudent - if so, be prepared from some complex (and possibly lengthy) conversations!

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

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Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2022/10/06/prominent-accounts-on-alternative-social-media-sites-mostly-are-individuals-not-organizations/>

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Come and join us for some sports, games and activities from July 24 - September 01.

Our action-packed program gives children the chance to remain active, develop skills and make new friends within a safe and secure environment.



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Bloxwich Active Living Centre - WS3 2DA

WED 9th AUG - STOURBRIDGE
Crystal Leisure Centre - DY8 1AE

THURS 10th AUG - CANNOCK
Chase Leisure Centre - WS11 4AL

FRI 11th & 25th AUG - WALSALL WOOD
Oak Park Active Living Centre - WS9 9BH

WED 23rd AUG - BIDDULPH
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We have two £15 vouchers to raffle off for this event. Tickets are available from reception and cost £1.

It will be drawn on Thursday 20th July

You've got to be in it to win it!

Parking outside the school

Please may we ask that you park mindfully and considerately when on the school run. Cars parked on the area outside the school gates are blocking vehicle access.

We have seen on occasion four cars parked there and what with residential parking along Brookfields Road also it makes it challenging for staff and visitors to get in and out of the school. Also in the event of an emergency an emergency vehicle would not be able to pass.

We have contacted the local highways with regards to relining the roads with the road markings which were there before the resurfacing and local PCSO's will be policing the area.

Many Thanks for your cooperation



Ipstones agricultural show

This year's show will take place on Saturday 26th August.

Our lovely little school will be represented by a display board of just some of the amazing work the children have done this year. There will also be a tombola to raise money for the school fund. Our stall will be manned by Mrs Jackie Worrall, thank you Mrs Worrall!

Many thanks to Mrs Goldstraw who has worked hard on creating our show piece.

We are very proud of what they have achieved.



Road safety reminders

As you will probably be out and about more in the holidays Staffordshire County Council safeguarding board have issued a timely reminder for road safety.

Road Safety Reminders



Young children

- Hold your child's hand, particularly when crossing.
- Use footpaths and let your child know the pavements is for people and the road is for vehicles.
- Lead by example, show your child that you are making safe choices using safe places to cross and not taking risks.
- Start to introduce the Green Cross Code. Talk about stop, look, listen, and think before crossing the road.
<https://www.roadwise.co.uk/schools/using-the-road/green-cross-code/>

Learning independence

- The age that children can start to walk to school alone depends on their confidence, the environment and distance.
- Practice the route together before they walk it alone, stick to safe pavements.
- Electric cars can be very quiet at low speed
- Discuss safe places to cross
- Make sure that phones, devices, and earphones are away during the walk
- Sign your child up for cycling proficiency courses
- Wear a helmet if cycling or scootering!



School uniform

If you have any old uniform items that your child has out grown we would be most grateful of donations for our free school uniform bank.

This way we can recycle and reuse as proved very popular when parents were invited to come in and have a look through donated items to see if they could make use of them.

Every little helps!

Thank you



2023 - 2024 Term dates

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September and Tuesday 5 September

Term starts: Wednesday 6 September

Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

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 have had an arty week this week. They have used different methods to make unusual but fabulous pieces of art.

They made ocean pictures, cutting out their sea shapes from black sugar paper to make silhouettes. They painted their backgrounds with beautiful sunny colours and used real sand to create texture to make their sandy beaches.

They have also made a lighthouse. Using shredded paper they made paper mache. They made the rocks that surround the lighthouse from the paper mache.



Flickers

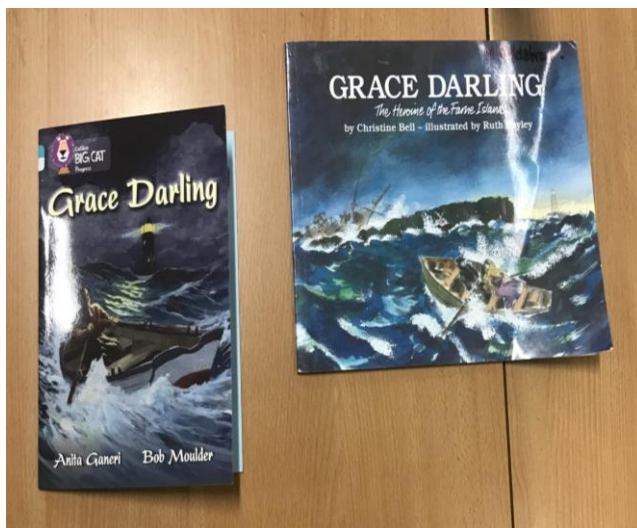
Flickers class have been learning about charities. They have learned about what they do and how they can make a difference in the world.

They have looked at Children in need how it raises money and what it is used for, they looked at the RNLI, RSPCA, World wildlife foundation.

They read a story called "The Furzey Oak" which is based around a charitable trust that educates adults with learning disabilities, The story is about the life of an oak tree over many centuries and how resilient the wood is.

On Welly Wednesday they had a walk around the school field looking at features that can help identify trees. They were very knowledgeable.

In History they have been learning about Grace Darling. She was an English lighthouse keeper's daughter who saved people from a shipwreck in 1868.



Flames

Flames class have been learning about Ancient Greece. They looked at how they invented The Olympics, Greek Gods, the Greek alphabet and Greek word which we still use today, for example, "democracy", "anatomy" and "acrobat". In their English lesson they looked through the dictionary finding Greek words that we still use today. They also made Greek vases! They have already created their designs in their books and once the vases are dried they will transfer their ideas from the page to the clay and make them look authentic.

