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Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Thank You For The Music

We were very proud of our choir who sang beautifully at the Children Singing for Singing event at St Mary's Church. Opening the show with Abba's "Thank You For The Music", they did extremely well and really set the standard (a big thank you to Joe on guitar for that 'tricky' intro!). They then sang Sweet Child of Mine which sounded amazing before rejoining the stage for the finale and the last three songs. The children's behaviour was a credit the school and many thanks, especially, to Miss Nicklin for preparing the children and to all the staff and parents who supported on the night. If anyone would like to join the choir we still have some vacancies—please see Mrs Steptoe in reception.

Governors

Thank you to everybody who voted in our recent election for Parent Governor. There were two candidates and the winner was **Lauren Murrey**, who will be an excellent representative for your views. We also have a new Foundation Governor, appointed by the Diocese on behalf of St Leonard's Church. Her name is **Donna Baker**. To complete the set **Claire Bell** has become a Co-opted governor, bringing a wealth of knowledge of the local community and of the services available to support families; **Anila Malik** has joined as an Associate Governor and will represent the views of support staff and the local community. The Governing Body is now full and we look forward to working with all our new governors.

Aspirations

We are looking for talented and engaging adults or parents from any background who could inspire our children and raise their aspirations in life.

Do you have any special talents, skills or knowledge which you could share with our children? Are you a talented sportsman, a successful professional or someone who has achieved academic or artistic excellence? Maybe your workplace offers visits for children to find out about working life?

If you have any ideas, please contact the office to let us know and we will work out how best to get you involved, whether with a particular class or with the whole school. Our children LOVE having visitors and, don't worry, you wouldn't be left unsupervised!

Road Safety

Sadly, we had another child injured on the roads during half term, this time on a visit to London. Please reinforce the message at home that the safest places to cross the roads are at official crossing points such as zebra crossings or traffic lights. Children MUST concentrate when crossing the road, they must look and they must listen too (no headphones!). Also, in these dark mornings and evenings they should be seen, by wearing bright clothes or a reflective strip. Miss Moon is giving a special assembly to Key Stage 2 next week.

Anti-Bullying Week

As ever there was a thoughtful response to Anti-Bullying Week. Our Monday assembly focused upon how boring it would be if we could only go to a school where everyone was the same as us! The children appreciated that it is our differences which make us interesting and special, and quite rightly so. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Evie, Megan and Isabelle, visited some of the classes for workshops and to reinforce the theme of children being 'All Different, All Equal' we ended the week by all holding hands together in the playground to say the school prayer. Thank you to Miss McKenna for her organisation and support.

Charity

Thank you to the Year 6 children who held a cake sale before half term for Water Aid. Next Friday it is the **Children In Need Spotacular** where we ask children to come to school suitably spotty in return for a donation to a good cause. Please join in if you are able.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



What we are doing

Reception Learning Morning

Children were delighted to see so many of their parents stay for lessons this Tuesday. Thank you very much to everyone who attended and the children enjoyed sharing their numbers and number games with you. I particularly enjoyed the matching game with the spots on the ladybirds and counting Cheerios onto sticks. The record number was 42!

Homework

It has been really pleasing to see how many children enjoy doing Spellodrome and Mathletics at home (and one or two parents have confessed that they like to have a go too!). There were some amazing Year 1 and 2 autumn Home Learning projects over half term which were shared in our Celebration Assembly last week and we know that many children work diligently at home practising their reading and phonics.

LOTS

There are so many opportunities for Learning Outside The School (LOTS). A lot of the teachers are enjoying **Blue Planet 2** at the moment which has fantastic photography and a vast array of amazing creatures. If you enjoy seeing sealife or are interested in science why not a trip to the **Sea Life Centre** or **Think Tank** Science Museum, both in Birmingham. Banbury Museum is always worth a visit and this weekend is the last weekend of a **Lego exhibition** showing the Great Wonders of the World – there are a total of a quarter of a million bricks. Who needs Legoland when you've got that on your doorstep?



Stackpole

We wish our Year 5 and 6 children a fantastic time at Stackpole next week. It will be an early start on Monday but an exciting week awaits as they travel to Pembrokeshire in Wales where they will be staying at the Stackpole Outdoor Learning Centre. The scenery is stunning, with refreshing walks and beautiful beaches. There will be some adventure too!



PTFA

Thank you to all the parents who attended the PTFA AGM recently, it was a really good turn-out and there were some great ideas for the year. The second meeting wasn't quite as well attended but a lot was achieved including planning for the Christmas Fair and Christmas Disco. Both sets of minutes are on the school website and we are looking for volunteers to be trained to deliver the Bikeability course. The next meeting is at school on Monday 15th January at 7.00pm.



Dates for you diary

Friday 10 November	Dress in blue for Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13 November	Year 5 and 6 Stackpole residential all week
Friday 17 November	Children In Need Spotacular
Monday 20 November	Cross Country Finals Sibford
Thursday 23 November	Year 3 Learning Morning 9.00am
Friday 24 November	PTFA Christmas Fair 3.00-5.00pm
Monday 27 November	Prayer Space Week
Friday 1 December	Christmas decoration day



St Leonard's Church

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website:

<http://saintleonards.org>

