

Headteacher:
Neil Blackwell



Overthorpe Road,
Banbury,

OX16 4SB

Tel:01295262507

office.3262@st-leonards.oxon.sch.uk

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Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Understanding Your Child

A reminder that the free course 'Understanding Your Child' is still available to parents. This is our number one piece of advice if you want to improve or understand your child's behaviour at home. The course covers:

Different styles of parenting

How your child communicates

Understanding your child's behaviour

Responding to how your child is feeling

Having fun together

Sleep, self-regulation and anger

The course is relevant to absolutely everyone with a child between 0 and 16. Each module will take 20 minutes of your time and then you will be asked to think about the issues raised and to watch and talk to your children so that you can understand them better. The code letter is attached. Make it one of your New Year Resolutions!

Early Years News

The new Nursery opened its doors this week and we are really pleased with it. The children have enjoyed their new surroundings and enjoyed being able to play with old friends from Reception, too! Thank you to everyone who helped in the planning of this project and in the removals over Christmas.



Assemblies

This term's school value is Responsibility and one of the themes covered in assembly will be the value of Shared Responsibility – why should one person carry the load when it is everyone's responsibility, for example, keeping the school grounds tidy. We'll also think about Justice and Mercy and learn about Candlemas when Jesus first attended the temple in Jerusalem.

SCIB

This term's safeguarding focus will be Online Safety and there will be assemblies for all the children on this theme in early February. There will be an information evening for parents on **Monday 5 March**, 6.00-7.00 pm – please try to come if you are able as this is an increasingly concerning issue.

Best wishes,
Neil Blackwell



What We are doing

Curriculum Plan

This term's curriculum plan is attached and also posted on the website, giving you an overview of what children will be learning this term. The 'hook' for each topic is a picture, culminating in our Take One Picture exhibition after school on **22 and 23 February** to which you are warmly invited. More detail is provided in the termly year group newsletter, also available on the website. This includes the current learning targets for each year group, replacing the old Target Books. Please encourage and support your children the best that you can.



Tom Palmer

We had a super visit from author Tom Palmer yesterday and what was most striking was his love for reading and the value that he put on it having struggled as a boy. This is a lesson for us all; he worked hard and overcame his reservations, eventually loving reading so much that he decided to write books of his own. The children took part in reading quizzes and had a chance to take some penalties at Tom. He also signed lots of books!



Year 6 Young Citizen

Year 6 had the pleasure of visiting Junior Citizen at Oxford Fire Station on Monday and Tuesday. The children met with members of the emergency services and had the opportunity to make a 999 call to respond to an emergency situation. The children have been reminded of the importance of their own safety, especially as they move onto their secondary school transitions, and how to keep their family and friends safe too. Great work, Year 6!

Mathletics

It's been great to see so many children enjoying Mathletics, together earning 384 bronze certificates and 49 silver. Research shows that it takes just 3 Mathletics activities a week to start improving re-sults – that's around 20 minutes work. And knowing their number facts helps children in the classroom as they can concentrate on problem solving and reasoning instead.



Dates for your diary ...

Mon 15 January	6B at IMPS
Monday 15 January	Clubs start
Monday 15 January	PTFA meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 17 January	Year 1 Learning Morning 8.50am
Wednesday 17 January	Year 4 Learning Afternoon 2.30pm
Tuesday 23 January	Year 5 Learning Afternoon 1.30pm
Wednesday 24 January 9.00am	Reception Learning Morning
Thursday 25 January	Year 3 Learning Afternoon 2.30 pm
Friday 26 January	Year 4 trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Friday 26 January	PTFA pamper night 7.00-10.00



Holidays and absence in term time

The government changed the law a few years ago and Headteachers are NOT allowed to authorise holidays, whatever the circumstances. Parents who take children out of school for unauthorised holidays will receive a Penalty Notice Warning and this could lead to a fine of up to £2500.

Persistent Absence and / or lateness can also lead to Penalty Notices. The government defines this as any pupil who misses more than 10% of school ie if attendance drops below 90%. 63 children had attendance below 92% in the autumn term and are therefore in danger of being Persistently Absent. Please talk to us for advice if you require any help getting your child into school.



St Leonard's Church

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

<http://saintleonards.org>