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Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Anti-Bullying

We have reminded children in assembly about the school's definition of Bullying. Bullying is harmful behaviour which happens **Several Times On Purpose**. It is most definitely deliberate and is very different to two friends who keep on choosing to play together and then fall out! In all instances the best way to **STOP** bullying is to **Start Telling Other People**. Children must tell an adult as soon as possible if they, or a friend, have been bullied. We will focus on ways to prevent bullying in our Anti-Bullying Week in November.

Policies and Feedback

If you wish to find out a little more about how school works then please check our policies, the most relevant of which are posted on the school website. The key policies are updated annually in response to the national agenda but also in line with the experiences of the school year and the needs of our children, staff and families. Any comments which you share are never wasted and all inform our on-going school improvement. Look out for another Parent Questionnaire during the first round of Parent Consultations.

Punctuality

Last week senior staff did their first round of Late Gates and saw a number of children and their parents rushing to school after 8.45am. Please remember that school doors open at **8.40am** with registration at 8.45am, closing at 8.50am. After that time children must sign in and enter school through the main office. Any arrivals after 9.00am are counted as an absence for that session. If there are reasons why your child is making you late (poor behaviour or school refusing) please inform us and we will see what steps we can take to support you. Good punctuality leads to a good start to the school day!

Cutting through school

In the interest of the safety of our children please could I ask that parents do not use the school's main corridor as a cut-through in the morning. Before school is always a busy time and we ask that you walk around the school if you need to go to the office or to other parts of the school site. Thank you for your co-operation.

Admissions and Open Days

We are now up to 409 children this year. There are still plenty of places available in Nursery so if you know of anybody looking for a place just point them our way. Sara or Rosie would be delighted to show them our facilities and we are able to offer Wrap-Around Care if required. The school will be holding two Open Days for prospective parents; on Wednesday 12 October and Tuesday 15 November, both at 9.30am.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



Sports News



Cross Country

On a rainy morning last Friday all the children from Year 1 to Year 6 competed in our annual school Cross Country competition. We use this event to select a team to compete in the Banbury Area Cross Country Final, which will take place next Saturday at Banbury Academy between 11 and 1. All the children showed great courage, perseverance and determination to complete the course. Congratulations to the winners of each race: **Key Stage 1 Girls – Summa; Key Stage 1 Boys – Parker; Lower Junior Girls – Julia; Lower Junior Boys – Rhys; Upper Junior Girls – Sophie and Upper Junior Boys – Cameron**. The top three in each race received a medal and the top ten in each race all received a certificate. These were presented in our weekly celebration assembly. The names of these children are on our website – so take a look!



What we are doing!

Focus on Year One

It does not seem like the children have only been in Year One for 2 ½ weeks. They have settled well into their new routines and are already becoming more independent learners! They are learning all about their body, the skeleton and the senses. They have read The Gingerbread Man and used speech bubbles and labels to develop their story writing and designed their own gingerbread man which they are going to decorate this week. In Maths they are learning to recognise and add coins and telling the time using o'clock.

Year Two trip

Last week year two enjoyed a visit to Banbury Museum. They learnt about the Oxford Canal, how it was built and how long it took to build. They also learnt that by the time the canal was finished, steam trains had been invented and the canals were no longer needed to transport goods to market! The children created their own piece of canal art and enjoyed activities in the museum gallery. The highlight of the day was the narrow boat trip which everyone enjoyed. The children behaved beautifully and were a credit to our school.



Learning News

Magic Maths

All our children will be doing ten minutes of **Magic Maths** a day this year. This is over and above their normal maths lessons and is designed to practise key skills such as times tables and number bonds. The new maths curriculum relies on children KNOWING their number facts so that they can use them flexibly when tackling problems. Perhaps parents could carry this on over the weekend? Ten minutes stuck in a traffic jam or walking to the supermarket reinforces what children know. Together, if we do this every day, imagine what a difference it will make by the summer term.

Growth Mindset

What type of learner are you? Most people are somewhere on a continuum between Fixed and Growth Mindset.

Fixed Mindset	Growth Mindset
I like my work to be easy	I like my work to be difficult – it means I am learning
I give up easily	I never give up
I don't like to try a challenge	I love challenges
I want people to praise me for how clever I am	I want people to praise me for my effort
I believe I can't change how clever I am	I believe I can get more intelligent by working hard
I don't like to try new things	I feel clever when I'm learning something new
I avoid things which are difficult for me	I learn from my mistakes

It has been proven that having a Growth Mindset can improve children's progress and attainment. As a result, we are teaching our children the attitudes of a Growth Mindset. In this way they can grow new connections in their brain and grow their intelligence and achieve more. Hard work is the key!



Dates for your Diary



Thursday 22nd September: • 5 week Maths workshop course for parents starts.
• Governors' Meeting (Resources)

Saturday 24th September: Banbury Area Cross Country at Banbury Academy

Friday 30th September: PTFA Social

Monday 10th October: Parent's Phonics Sessions at 2.30pm & 6.30pm

Wednesday 12th October: Open day for prospective new parents



St Leonard's Church

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website: <http://saintleonards.org>

Message from the PTFA

Over the past few years the PTFA at St Leonards have been successfully providing fun social events for our children and families while raising money for the school. Last year we raised over £6000!

It is time for the current elected members to step down and we would love to hear from new or existing parents who would be interested in taking the PTFA forward. We always have lots of volunteers to help out and support events but for this to happen we now need people for the following roles:-

Chairperson - this is a great opportunity for a parent or (2 parents to share) to bring members of the school community together to decide on and oversee projects and help co-ordinate activities and volunteers.

Secretary - We need someone to help co-ordinate meetings, manage the email and take minutes, and support the chair with admin tasks to make sure everything is covered.

If you would like to be involved in the PTFA please pass your name and contact details to reception or speak to Mrs Debus (Year2) or Miss Packham (Year3). There is a PTFA social taking place on 30th September at 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome so please add your name to the list outside Year 2 if you can come so we know numbers to book.

