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# Newsletter



## From the Headteacher



### School Council

A huge well done to our 12 elected School Councillors who have been voted for by their peers to form this year's School Council. They had their first meeting on Friday and, under the watchful eye of Mrs Debus, I'm sure that they will be a credit to the school. The School Council is: Mohammad M and Yagoda (Year 1), Isabelle and Maisie (Year 2), Owen and Perry (Year 3), Mustafah and Lexi (Year 4), Oliver and Aminah (Year 5) and Jayden and Chloe (Year 6).

### Brass lessons

During the school year we have a whole range of visiting music teachers who teach children to play a musical instrument. At the moment we have vacancies for brass lessons – trumpet, tuba, cornet, trombone or baritone - and Mr Probert from the County Music Service is giving an assembly soon to show how to play these. If your child is interested in having lessons and you would like to know more please contact Miss Nicklin in Year 4 one day after school. County will fund children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant.

### School Library

Don't forget that the school library is open for children to borrow books, every afternoon from 3.05pm to 3.35pm, except Friday. Entrance is via the steps upstairs between Year 2 and Year 3 and Mrs Hancock is there to help you. There's a fantastic selection of books and the choice is at least as good as the mobile library that used to visit. If you haven't been before, go and have a look!

### Newsletter

Thank you for taking time to read the newsletter. Most of you receive it via email but a reminder that it is also posted on the school website each Wednesday.

### NSPCC

The NSPCC has visited school this week and delivered assemblies to the children on the theme of "Speak Out. Stay Safe." Years 5 and 6 will take part in workshops next week to reinforce this message and all children will be encouraged to raise money to help protect other children from harm. Please give generously if you are able!

### Harvest

St Leonard's Church holds its Harvest Festival Service at 10am on Sunday, 2 October and all our families are warmly invited to attend. Year 5 will be visiting Church for their own Harvest Service on 19 October and children will have their own Harvest Celebration here at school on Friday 21 October when we will invite you to bring a food donation for the Banbury Foodbank.

Best wishes,

*Neil Blackwell*



## Sports News



### Cross- Country

Congratulations to all our Cross Country runners who represented the school at the Banbury Area Championships at Banbury Academy last weekend. Over 400 children took part and we retained our trophy, winning the Championships for the fourth year in a row. Especially well done to Julia C who won the Year 3 and 4 girls' race and to Rhys who came third in the equivalent boys' race. Our Year 3 and 4 girls won their team event and our Year 1 and 2 girls and boys teams both came second. Huge thanks go to everybody who supported us and to our staff members who helped on their Saturday.



## What we are doing!

### Focus on Year Two

The Year Two children have settled really well. They started off the term with class trips to Banbury Museum which included a narrowboat ride. The children behaved brilliantly and made us feel very proud. Linking to this, they have investigated the properties of different materials in order to learn which ones are waterproof; they then made their own boats using waterproof materials. They have looked at maps and pictures from a birds' eye view and drawn their own birds' eye view pictures. The children have been learning about animals who live by rivers and canals and their habitats. As if that wasn't enough, they have been learning about noun phrases and exclamatory sentences in English as well as practising the 2 x tables and addition and subtraction in maths.

### Year One Share-a-Story

Year One parents are warmly invited to join their children in class every Friday morning to 'Share-a-story'. Reading at this age is not just about your child reading but also about sharing stories with them and enjoying books together. Please select a book to take home for the weekend.



## Learning News

### Building Learning Power

We continue to build our learning powers here at St Leonard's and I have been delighted to receive exciting feedback from parents about how positively children are talking about their learning this term. For your information we will be sending home a short colour leaflet this week explaining the eight learning powers and the attributes of each. These powers help to give children strategies to succeed in learning. They're fantastic qualities to encourage in any child and can be used with anything from completing a jigsaw to tying their shoe laces. Encourage your children to **Enjoy Learning, Be Curious, Have a Go, Concentrate, Be Co-Operative, Use Your Imagination, Don't Give Up, Keep Improving.**

### Phonics

We began our Learning Mornings this week with Year One and Reception parents visiting us to find out about phonics and early reading. If you would like to find out even more about phonics then please join us at school for our **phonics information sessions** on **Monday 10 October**. The first session is at 2.30pm in the hall, aimed at Reception, Year One and Year Two parents where children will show you how they learn. There is a second session in the evening at 6.30pm which **all parents** are welcome to attend. There will be tea and cake too!

### Home Learning

This term as a staff we have been giving thought to how learning at school can best be supported at home. We live in a society which is constantly evolving and learning is not limited just to the seven hours a day which children spend in school. It is a constant, on-going process and our job, as professionals and as parents, is to equip children with the qualities which they need to develop life-long learning skills and to give them choices as they get older. To this end, we have summarised our thoughts in a **Home Learning Policy** which you can view on our website. Traditional 'homework' tasks will still be set each week but this is only a small part of how children can learn at home. Together we are helping children to prepare for the next stage of their education and increasing their chances of success.



## Dates for your Diary



**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 at 9.30am

**Monday 17th October:** Parents' open evening 6pm—8pm

**Tuesday 18th October:** Parents' open evening 3.30pm—6.0pm

**Wednesday 19th October:**

- School photos
- Harvest service at St Leonard's Church year 5



## St Leonard's Church

### Sunday 2nd October:

Harvest Festival Service at 10am followed by a bring and share lunch.



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

<http://saintleonards.org>