

Headteacher:
Neil Blackwell



8th September 2017

Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Welcome

A very warm welcome back to St Leonard's to all our children and families for the new school year. This is an exciting time to be at St Leonard's and if you are joining us for the first time we wish you a very happy association with the school. There has been a real learning buzz these first few days and staff and children are united in doing the very best that they can. We wish you all a very successful and rewarding year.

School Site

Our site has been hectic in the weeks leading up to September and a lot has gone on behind the scenes preparing for the children's return. In particular, the Upper School block, Years 5 and 6, has been completely redecorated and the classrooms look very smart indeed. The Trim Trail has also had a makeover, giving it an all-weather surface so that it can be used all year round. Thank you to Mrs Hawkins and the cleaning staff for all their hard work over the summer.

Staff News

It's not just children whom we welcome to St Leonard's. There are several new adult faces too and we are delighted with all our newcomers, who each bring something special with them. Miss Cross joins us teaching in Nursery two days a week, whilst Miss Glenn and Miss Hendley are class teachers in Year 2 and Year 3 respectively. Miss Lyford is now an Associate teacher, working alongside Mrs Lacey in Year 4, and Mr Hummer rejoins the school from Special Education providing targeted learning support, helping to raise resilience and developing Physical Education. Please join me in welcoming our new members of staff when you get a chance to meet them

Attendance

Good attendance is closely linked to good progress and attainment. Poor attendance increases the chance that a child will have gaps in their learning. We were delighted therefore to see that overall school attendance rose to 95.31% last year, and 260 children exceeded the school target of 95% (13 more than last year). 20 children achieved 100% for the year which is a great achievement.

Our attendance winners for last year were Mrs Debus' class and Mr Clark's class with 96.21% and 96.32% respectively for the year. Well done!

Feedback

A huge thank you to the 159 parents who returned the feedback forms from the end of year annual reports. Comments were overwhelmingly positive and any criticisms have been received constructively.

Home and School Contract

Next week we will be sending home to you our Home and School Contract which sets out the school's commitment to you. Please take a moment to read the child's section with your child/ren and to consider the parent part. There will also be a brief questionnaire for you to complete and we would be most grateful for both to be returned as soon as possible. Many thanks in advance.



Learning News

As the term starts it has been great to see the children learning both in the classroom and outdoors. Please remember to check the school website regularly for termly topic plans and newsletters explaining what the children are learning about and how you can support them in learning at home (in Curriculum Information). There are noticeboards outside each year group so that you can keep up to date with everything that is happening.

Clubs

There are a great range of clubs on offer for children again this term, both at lunchtimes and after school. New and exciting this term are Yoga Club with Miss Glenn and Basketball with Ignite Sports. We're also pleased to be offering an Active Family Club, organised by Sanctuary Housing, and including fitness, dance and healthy eating. This is for adults (parents or grandparents) to accompany their children and have fun together. Adults are free! All club applications need to be in by 9.00am on Thursday 14 September. Forms are available on-line and at reception.

Family Support

The first **Stay and Play** session of the year is this Tuesday, from 8.45 to 10.30 in the Diamond Building. There is a **New Parent Drop-in** beginning Tuesday 26 September, from 8.45 to 10.00 in the staffroom. Enter via the school office; we would love to see you and you'll meet other parents and find out more about the school. There is also a **Drop-in open to all parents** who wish to pop in for a cup of tea and a chat; it begins Thursday, 14 September, again in the staffroom. The **Drop-in for families of Pakistani Heritage** will be on Tuesday afternoons 2.00 – 3.00pm and there will be **English Language classes** with the fantastic Karen on Thursdays 2.00-3.00 pm. We would like to offer groups for Polish or Hungarian parents if numbers allow and Parent Cookery Courses – please leave your name with Christina or the office if you are interested.

Telephone Numbers

Please let the school office know if your contact details have changed over the summer holidays, particularly telephone numbers. This is really important for those rare occasions when we need to contact you in cases of emergency and is just as important for those second or third on your contact list! Many thanks.

School Dinners

Remember, all children in Year Two and below are eligible for free school dinners. We have managed to keep the price of paid dinners to £2 again this year whilst many schools have increased their prices. This is good value for a tasty meal.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



Dates for your diary...

Monday 11 September	Nursery and Reception children start school
Monday 11 September	2A canal visit
Wednesday 13 September	2B canal visit
Wednesday 13 September	Stay and Play starts
Thursday 14 September	PTFA welcome coffee 2.00pm
Thursday 14 September	Y3 visit Banbury Museum
Friday 15 September	Y3 visit Banbury Museum
Friday 22 September	Y5 to Batsford Arboretum



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Monday 25 September	Reception children become full-time
Monday 25 September	PTFA AGM 7.00pm



St Leonard's Church

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