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Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Nursery

We were excited today to be handed over the keys to the new Nursery, two weeks ahead of schedule, although there is still a little landscaping outside to finish. We'll have an official opening soon and you'll be able to look inside. In the meantime, Nursery will close for Christmas two days ahead of the rest of the school, on Friday 15 December, in order to enable us to move across from the Diamond building. If you know that you would like a Nursery place for April or September please let us know as soon as possible.

Learning Power

Children across the school are learning how to learn and in Early Years children have a series of animals which help them to develop as learners, for example at the moment "Go for it Gorilla" is encouraging them to 'have a go' at new things.

From Year One onwards we use ten Learning Powers, this term's foci being Be Curious and Keep Improving. Be Curious is all about showing an interest in the world and WHY things happen. This quickly leads onto how or when or what if! Keep Improving speaks for itself and we want children to know that the harder they work the better they will become. A top footballer like Harry Kane doesn't stop practising shooting because he can already do it, he tries to improve and get even better. It should be like that in art or maths or reading too!

SCIB

St Leonard's is a proud member of SCIB – Safeguarding Children In Banbury. Working across all the primary schools in Banbury, our aim is to teach children and the local community how to be safe. Next week children will learn about substance abuse in an age-appropriate manner. Starting with making good or bad choices for our bodies in Year 1, Year 2 will learn about harmful household products, and Year 3 will learn about the physical effects of smoking. Higher up the school healthy lifestyles will be discussed, alcohol consumption, energy drinks, and the effects of drugs on mental and emotional health. To see what we're doing in more detail there is a document entitled Drugs and Alcohol Skills Progression on the website in Information → Curriculum Information → Safeguarding in the Curriculum. We have also posted links to Turning Point for adults with a concern about addiction, and Aquarius for under 18s.

Online Safety

In our recent Parent Questionnaire a third of those who replied said that they would be interested in learning more about Online Safety. Attached is a document which a couple of parents have sent to me; it's aimed at adults and how you can become a safer parent online. Please have a look when you have time.

Best wishes,
Neil Blackwell



What we are doing

Family Club

We now have more details about Family Club which will start in January, run by Cherwell District Council. The idea is that families have fun together and take part in activities such as Activators (exercise and play), Art (for example kite making) and Forestry (making fires and cooking!). There'll be a focus, too, on healthy lifestyles. Sessions will run from 6.00 to 7.00 pm each Tuesday and we'll send out final details with the clubs brochure in January.

Netball

Year 5 and 6 took part in a netball tournament at Banbury Academy last week. There were eight schools involved which meant that we played seven matches, drawing three and losing four. What impressed us was that our team was clearly up against some very experienced players yet they never gave up. We were very proud of them all. Well done for representing your school!

Reading

Every Friday Year 1 parents are invited in to 'Share-a-Story' at the start of the day. We know that some of you are regulars but if you haven't been for a while please come in to see us next week. If you don't feel comfortable reading out loud Mrs Philpott has posted a video on the school website of her reading a story to a group of children (it's in the 'Reading and Phonics' section of Curriculum Information.) Please have a look; this is for any parents, and you'll hear a lot of book talk and questions about the text. This is just as important as children get older and read more challenging books.

Christmas Fair

Next Friday it is the PTFA Christmas Fair, straight after school, and we hope that as many of you will be able to visit as possible. There'll be gifts and stocking fillers, tombola, asian food and henna. The PTFA is also having a Bag 2 school fundraising clothing collection on 6th December.

Music Week

Our children have a rich diet of musical opportunities and Year 3 and 6 learn how to play African drums. Year 4 play the ukulele, whilst numerous individuals have lessons on drums, piano, guitar and brass. Next week we are focusing upon music and all the children will get the chance to do something different or extra in music which we will present in our end of week celebration assembly.



St Leonard's Church

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

<http://saintleonards.org>



Understanding Your Child

Parents tell me that they're getting a lot from doing this course, and it's relevant for children aged 0 to 18. One thing that it keeps on referring back to are the three key questions:

1. What is the exact age and developmental stage of your child? (What are they trying to do at the moment? (crawl, ride a bike, revise for GCSEs)
2. What changes have taken place in your lives recently? (moved class, pet has died, a new baby is due)
3. How well can your child communicate his or her needs to you? (Is it obvious if they are upset or angry? Do they shout or go quiet? What should you do in response?)

Remember, being a parent is the hardest job in the world. We don't always get it right but that doesn't stop us from trying to be the best that we can!



Dates for you diary

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
Tuesday 5 December	Pantomime Chipping Norton
Wednesday 6 December	School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 7 December	PTFA Christmas disco