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Newsletter



From the Head Teacher



Welcome Back

Welcome back to St Leonard's and a Happy New Year to you all! 2019 promises to be a fantastic year and it is our intention to make it a special one for all our children.

The autumn term was very heartening for the school and there were strong signs of us coming together as a learning community. Attendance from parents at Parents Evenings was over 97% and there has been excellent attendance at our Learning Mornings and Afternoons, particularly in Early Years where new parents have been really supportive with their children's school life. New dates for Learning Mornings have already been booked and Reception and Year 1 have theirs in January.

This term marks the beginning of the countdown to national tests in May and June and this is an important year for children in Year 1, 2 and 6 in particular. We hope that we can count on your support in encouraging children with their Home Learning in ALL year groups, and especially regular reading. Studies show that children who read regularly are happier and better able to regulate their emotions. It works for adults too!

Attendance

The overall attendance figure for the Autumn term was **96.98%**, a big improvement on last year and well ahead of our school target. Thank you everyone and this has a huge, positive effect upon children's learning.

Miss Postlethwaite's Year 1 class led the way in Term 2 and won the termly governor's attendance award of £50, with a fantastic 98.45%. Mrs Lacey's Year 6 class won the Key Stage Two award with 97.04%.

149 children had 100% attendance which was a superb achievement and 22 higher than a year ago. A further 81 children achieved above 96%, making a total of 230 children who will receive a reward in assembly.

Even more importantly only 8 children have attendance below 85%, which is a huge improvement on the 18 last year. We always write home where attendance is a concern.

Key Stage Leaders

Children pass through three Key Stages at Primary School: the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in Nursery and Reception, Key Stage One (in Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage Two (in Years 3 to 6). They then move to Key Stage Three in Secondary School (most usually Years 7 to 9) and Key Stage Four (Years 10 to 11).

We have 4 amazing Key Stage Leaders here at St Leonard's, all of whom support Mr Blackwell and Mrs Philpott in the school Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Pratley leads EYFS, Mrs Debus Key Stage One, Miss Moon Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 and 4) and Mrs Lacey Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 and 6). As well as looking after the needs of children and staff they are also here to support parents and families and are always able to offer or to signpost advice if you need it.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



This term our SCIB focus is upon keeping children safe online. The NSPCC will be visiting next week and there is a 'breakfast meeting' for parents at 9.00am on **Thursday, 17 January**, with bacon and/or egg butties provided by the PTFA, and I would urge as many parents to attend as possible to find out about **Online Safety**.

If mornings are not good for you then we have a second event booked, with Nick Speller from 123ICT who will be talking to parents from 5.30-6.30 on **Tuesday, 12 February**. He is always entertaining yet extremely thought-provoking.

Our SCIB Online Safety week is week commencing 28 January and Years 3 to 6 will all receive a **bCyberwise workshop** provided by SCARF and paid for by SCIB. There will also be whole school assemblies on **Internet Safety Day** on 12 February and training for staff.



Focus on Reception



Reception visited Tesco Express this week to buy some snacks. They are learning about money and getting some real life practise!



Learning Journeys

A new term always means new learning and this term is particularly exciting as it is our Take One Picture exhibition on 13 and 14 February. Year 1 will be learning about superheroes, both fictional and real-life, and Year 2 will explore Food Glorious Food including a chance to design and make 'real food' with Newlyweds.

After a civilised start to the year, Year 3 immerse themselves in the Stone Age and will be reading one of my favourite children's books Stig of the Dump. Year 4 will be finding out about Polar exploration; learning out about Ernest Shackleton's journeys to the Antarctic and life in extreme climates.

Year 5 will learn about how Bluebird broke the world land-speed record and writing exciting newspaper reports. Year 6 are immersing themselves in the life of Vincent Van Gogh and reading a bit of Shakespeare!



Parenting Course

The Sunshine Centre is a fantastic local community facility and is offering a 10 week Family Links Parenting Course starting on Friday 18 January. This is for ANY parent and details are attached – if you would like us to reserve a place on your behalf then just ask.

Comments from parents who have attended:



"I am a much more confident, positive and understanding parent. I feel more able to cope now"



"We are having less family arguments and the household is a lot calmer."



Clubs

This term's After School Clubs start soon and there is a huge range on offer. Several clubs are aimed at helping children to become better learners and Miss Moon is running a Home Learning Club which might be useful if you want more support with Home Learning tasks. Collins Aerospace (formerly UTC) are hosting an Imagineering Club which will involve children in some exciting projects.



St Leonard's Church

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



Dates for your diary ...

Tuesday 15 January	Reception Learning Morning
Tuesday 15 January	Year 5 and 6 Imagineering sessions
Wednesday 16 January	Year 5 and 6 Imagineering sessions
Thursday 17 January	Parent NSPCC Online Safety breakfast workshop 9.00am – free bacon/ egg butties!
Monday 28 January	Prayer Space Week
Monday 28 January	Year 3 and 4 bCyberwise
Tuesday 29 January	Year 5 and 6 bCyberwise
Wednesday 30 January	Year 1 Learning Morning
Wednesday 13 February	Take One Picture exhibition
Thursday 14 February	Take One Picture exhibition