



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy
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3rd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to Term 2.

Value

Our value this term is Respect. We will explore how we can show respect, to ourselves and others; the importance of respecting and valuing difference; the Golden Rule from the United Nations; people whom we respect and why; respecting and valuing places and respecting and valuing different opinions.

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Mrs Matthews who has secured a Deputy Head post for January 2024. We would like to thank Mrs Mathews for her time and commitment that she has given to St Leonard's. We will miss her and her contributions to our team but wish her every success as she embarks on her next step.

Congratulations also to Mrs Mackenzie who is expecting her second child in April.

Mrs Mackenzie will be with us for most of, if not all of Term 4, up until she begins her maternity leave; returning in the next academic year 24/25

School will now be planning for these changes and will update you when we have further information.

Harvest

Thank you for the donations for our Harvest festival. It was very much appreciated and these will be donated to Foodbank at the end of this week.

STEER

This term we are introducing a wellbeing assessment and tracking tool called STEER Tracking for our children in year 3-6. The tool was initially used for children in their adolescent years but it has been adapted by the STEER organisation for children of KS2.

It's not always easy for us to know which students need our help as they don't or can't always tell us, even though we ask. Some students need a little extra help to make the right choice at the right time; they can get a bit stuck. This can have an impact on their academic progress, friendships, wellbeing, and mental health. Knowing who these students are, early enough, means we can give targeted signposts to help them steer their choices better.

Sometimes we only know something is wrong when we see a change in their behaviour or a dip in their learning; we think that's too late. We want to know which students need our help, as early as possible, even if their needs are hidden or masked, and what we can do to help. STEER Tracking will

Living and Learning Together With God's Help

enable us to give the right student, the right support, at the right time and it also will indicate those students who are currently successfully navigating the choices they make in the following areas.

Self Disclosure: I can choose when to share my thoughts and feelings, or keep them private

Trust of Self: I can choose to trust or question what I think or do

Trust of Others: I can choose to trust or question what others think or do

Seeking Change: I can choose to change things or keep them as they are

We will be asking all children in yr3 - 6 to complete the short, simple and safe STEER online assessment up to three times each academic year. The assessment tracks how each student is *steering* or making choices in four areas important for healthy adolescent development...

If we identify an area where your child may need support, your child's teacher will share insights with you so we can work together to proactively guide and signpost your child when they need it.

How can you find out more?

Take a look at the [STEER website](#) and click on the links above to watch a short video about each STEER factor.

PTA Updates

Bags 2 Schools - the bags have now been sent out and can be dropped off at school on Tuesday 21st November (pm) or Wednesday 22nd November (by 9am) - apologies but due to space we cannot store for longer.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Donate Christmas Jumpers - If you have any Christmas Jumpers that your child no longer needs or has outgrown, please could you send these into school on the same date as Bags to Schools. (separate to the clothes in the bags) The PTA are then going to organise a Christmas Jumper swap on Friday 1st December, where the jumpers you have donated will be displayed and you can pick up a jumper for your child. This will be in time for our Christmas Jumper Day that we hold annually, in support of Save the Children.

Tea towels - the last few self-portraits are being completed and more details will follow soon regarding how to order these.

Easyfundraising - The PTA are in the process of setting up an account for the school on this platform. The school can be found by using the postcode or entering Friends of St Leonard's CE Primary Academy - Blunsdon, Swindon. Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

A video explaining how it works can be found using the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>

Christmas Events

KS1 Nativity - These will be held on 12th and 13th December in the afternoons. As usual we will be allocating two tickets per family to attend one of the performances. More details will follow in the next few weeks.

KS2 Carols by Candlelight will be held on 14th December at 5.00pm. It would be great if every KS2 child could attend this event after school. This will take place on the school playground.

KS1 would also like to hold a Stories by candlelight event at the same time. (more details to follow)
This will take place in the classrooms.

The PTA also hope to be able to provide refreshments for these events. More details to follow.

A reminder that our whole school visit to the Pantomime will be on Thursday 7th December and the Christmas Dinner day is on 13th December.

Children in Need

We will be collecting for Children in Need on 17th November. Children can come into school in non-school uniform on that day for a small donation.

We will be following the Swindon calendar for term dates for the academic year 2023-24.

T D Days for next academic year

2nd Jan 2024 and 3rd Jan 2024

19th Feb 2024 3rd June 2024

Yours sincerely
Mrs Warburton