

St Leonard's CE Primary
Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

13th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Leonard's,

As we move into the final weeks of the autumn term, there is a real sense of excitement and anticipation around school. The classrooms are buzzing with energy as children throw themselves into their learning, exploring new topics and enjoying the many rich opportunities planned in the build-up to Christmas.

Alongside our day-to-day learning, we have a wonderful range of festive activities to look forward to — from performances and creative projects to special events that bring our whole school community together. It's always a magical time of year, and we're so proud of how the children approach it with such enthusiasm, kindness, and curiosity.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing this joyful and busy season with you and your children.

Warm regards,

Mr Beadnell



Football Team Update

The school football team is really starting to show what they are made of with back-to-back cup and league victories – this puts them through to the last 16 of the cup and sends them to joint top of the league. We were especially proud of their sense of fair play and team-play. On both occasions, the fair play score was 10/10.



PE Days in Term 2

Owls	Wednesday
Hedgehogs	Tuesday & Thursday
Foxes	Wednesday & Thursday
Badgers	Monday & Tuesday
Deer	Monday & Tuesday



Pupil Parliament

On November 12th our Pupil Parliament members joined other representatives from other schools across the Blue Kite Trust to discuss the upcoming year. Over the course of the year, they will discuss and find ways to improve their schools and raise money for charities that are supported by the Trust.

Both of our Pupil Parliament members will have the opportunity to visit the House of Parliament in March 2026.



Values Cup

The value for Term 2 is **Trust** and we have been looking at how important it is to have people around us who we can Trust. In assembly we learnt about how Jesus put his Trust in God during a storm at sea. This gave us the chance to reflect on what qualities make us trustworthy and how this links to last term's value of friendship. As is always the case, two of our children who demonstrate the value of trust will be nominated weekly and will be able to show off their values cups on Friday.

COMMUNITY



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Harvest Festival. We were delighted to hand over several boxes of items to the Swindon Food Collective who will distribute them where they are needed the most.



Remembrance Sunday

We understand lots of our families attended the Remembrance Service at the Church on Sunday which was wonderful to hear. Reverend Andy joined the children to lead an assembly to mark Remembrance Day which featured a poignant reading of a poem he had selected by some of the school ambassadors.



Remembrance Day Assembly

Massive thanks to Reverend Andy Bissex who led a Remembrance Day assembly for the whole school on November 11th.



Coming Up



Nativity

Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform their nativity to parents/guardians from those year groups on December 9th and 10th. December 9th will be to parents of Owls class and December 10th to parents of Hedgehogs class. The performance will start at 1.30. When the performance has finished you can, if you wish, take your child home with you. If there are siblings in the school you can also take them at the same time. This is not compulsory and staff will still be in classrooms until the normal end of the school day.

Tickets :

This is a ticketed event. 2 tickets will be allocated per family. Tickets will be sent home with children next week.

Past Events



Supporting our PTFA events

Thank you for supporting the various events that our PTFA organize. As you can see below, approximately £200 has been raised through recent events.



Remembrance Day Poppies

We have had a wonderful response to the sale of Remembrance Day items. So many children are keen to wear a poppy and it has been quite special to see many of them wearing their poppy with pride.



We have a very committed and hard-working PTFA. Below are details of recent and upcoming events and activities. Thank you to everyone who supports the events that are organized. All proceeds go directly to the school to benefit the children.

Coming Up



13 Nov : Bags to School Drop-off

If you have items to donate to the Bags for Schools collection these can be dropped off under the overhang in front of the main office doors at any point during the day. You can use any bag.



19 Dec : GlamoRose Van In the Playground

To wrap the term up nicely, GlamoRose will be onsite at the end of the school day with a delicious selection of treats to kick off the holiday season.

Past Events



Uniform Sale

If you ever have a need for school uniform contact the PTFA as they may well have exactly what you need. £30 was raised for the school.



Bakes & Books Sale

We hope you found a tasty bake and a gripping book to take home with you. £90.10 was raised for the school.



Wacky Hair Day

There were some brilliant hairstyles and head furniture on display – great to see adults joining in too! £84.50 was raised for the school.



Big-A Club : Wraparound Care

Breakfast club, After-school club and Holiday club bookings can be made through the Big A website.

www.thebigclub.co.uk



Instagram

Hopefully, you have been able to access the school's posts on Instagram. This is going to be the best way to find out about what's been happening in school and we are looking to developing how we use it even more in the future.



Dates for your Diary

Upcoming TD Days

Monday 5th January

Other dates to remember:

14th November, Friday : Pyjama Day for £1 donation

4th December, Thursday : Tennis Morning for all pupils

9th December, Tuesday : Nativity performance to Owl class parents/carers

10th December, Wednesday : Nativity performance to Hedgehog class parents/carers

11th December Thursday : Whole school trip to the panto

16th December : Tuesday : Carols by Candlelight @ 5pm

19th December, Friday : Last day of term

6th January, Tuesday : 1st day of term 3



Online Safety

See the below poster about WhatsApp.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

