



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is a real pleasure to welcome you all to St Leonard's CE Primary Academy for the start of a new school year, whether you are joining our parent community for the first time or are a familiar face!

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school and begin the Autumn Term with such enthusiasm. I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday and enjoyed some well-deserved time together.

The children are looking smart and, most importantly, seem delighted to be reunited with their friends. While some children understandably found it a little difficult to say goodbye at the gates on that first morning, we are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into their new classes. They have made a positive start, embraced their new routines and begun their learning journey with their new teachers with enthusiasm and confidence.

We are looking forward to a happy, successful and exciting year ahead, filled with opportunities for our children to learn, grow and thrive.

Values for Life

Our value this term is '**Respect**'.

Respect is an important part of life and helps us to build positive and caring relationships with those around us. As part of this value, we will be thinking about what it means to show respect to others, ourselves and the world around us. We will consider how our words and actions can make others feel valued, listened to and included, and how we can appreciate and celebrate the differences that make each person unique.

Respect is an important Christian value. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to treat others with kindness, compassion and dignity. The Bible reminds us that every person is made in the image of God and is therefore precious and worthy of respect.

Throughout this term, we will encourage the children to listen to others, value different opinions, care for one another and demonstrate respect through their everyday words and actions. By showing respect, we help to create a loving and inclusive community where everyone feels valued, safe and able to flourish.

Pupil Leadership



As we move into a new school year, it is time to develop our Pupil Leadership and appoint a Head Boy and Head Girl. Year 6's were given a letter on Tuesday to explain the job role and how to apply. If your child would like to be considered, they must hand in their letters of application by Friday 18th September. Our Senior Leadership Team will then look over these and a selection of children will be asked to come for a short interview the following week. The Head Boy and Head Girl will have responsibilities for showing

St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

visitors around, representing the school and be excellent role models to others. We wish our Year 6's the best of luck and look forward to reading their applications.

Term 1 Clubs

After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rec					
Y1		Multiskills - Soccer Excellence			Martial Arts
Y2					
Y3			Piano during school day		
Y4		Soccer Excellence - Football KS2	Art		Black & White Club
Y5	Soccer Excellence - Football Team coaching			Soccer Excellence - Football Team matches	
Y6					Soccer Excellence - Football KS1

Club	Provider	Contact/Booking Details	Payment
Multiskills EYFS & KS1	Soccer Excellence	mattcosnett@soccerexcellence.co.uk	Booked direct by parents with Soccer Excellence - See letter send out
KS1 Football	Soccer Excellence	mattcosnett@soccerexcellence.co.uk	Booked direct by parents with Soccer Excellence - See letter send out
KS2 Football			
Piano	Martina from martist	martina@martist.co.uk	Booked direct by parents with Martina - her details are on her poster to send out. Need a new poster each time from her with dates
Art			
Martial Arts	Richard Herbert, Phoenix MA	info@phoenixma.co.uk	Booked direct by parents with Richard - his details are on his poster to send out. Can use the same poster each time as he doesn't include dates

A Few Clarifications and Updates for Parents

As Headteacher, working closely with our Governing Body, I am aware that there have been some conversations and concerns shared on various online platforms regarding recent changes and decisions at school.

We completely understand that parents may have questions or concerns, and we would always encourage you to raise these directly with me in the first instance. This gives me, and where appropriate the Governing Body, the opportunity to listen, provide the correct information, explain the rationale behind decisions and address any concerns appropriately.

There also appears to be some misinformation circulating, so I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points.

Football Club

I would like to thank the parents who kindly offered to run a football club for our children. We very much appreciate parents volunteering their time and wanting to provide additional opportunities for our pupils.



St Leonards CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

I am aware that there has been a rumour circulating that I had cancelled the football club. I would like to make it clear that this is not the case. The football club has not been cancelled.

I was able to organise for a specialist sporting company, Soccer Excellence, to provide qualified coaches to train and run our football provision. This was communicated to parents at the end of last term.

For the first couple of weeks, Soccer Excellence will be running the school football team trials. Once the school team has been selected, the football club will then open to all children in Years 3-6. This arrangement has been put in place to ensure that every child who wants to take part in football has the opportunity to do so. We felt this was the fairest way of providing football opportunities for as many children as possible, rather than the club being limited to a smaller number of children.

Nursery, the Pod and Lunchtime Arrangements

I am also aware of some questions and confusion regarding the nursery provision, the use of the Pod and where children will eat at lunchtime.

We are still finalising some of the details around the nursery, and I will share a much more detailed plan with parents as soon as everything has been confirmed.

At present, the plan is for the nursery to be based in the Pod. The Pod is currently used for lunchtime eating and some after-school clubs. If the nursery moves into the Pod, sandwiches and hot dinners will instead be served in the hall.

I am aware that there has been some misinformation suggesting that children will be eating their lunch on the floor. I can confirm that this is not the case.

The dining tables currently in the Pod will be moved into the hall. They will be stored away when they are not needed and brought out ready for lunchtime. Once lunchtime has finished, the tables will be cleaned and put away by 1pm, ready for the start of afternoon lessons.

This arrangement will therefore not have an impact on afternoon PE.

PE Provision

I have already shared further information with parents regarding the changes to our PE provision, but I would like to reiterate that this is **not a fixed or permanent decision**. We are trialling the current arrangement alongside the introduction of our new Cornerstones curriculum. One of the reasons for this is to ensure that our children have sufficient curriculum time to complete the creative projects and learning opportunities that form an important part of Cornerstones.

We will continue to review this throughout the year. If we find that there is sufficient curriculum time available, we may look at opportunities to build additional PE lessons back into the timetable.

Our curriculum and provision will continue to be reviewed as the year progresses, and we will make adjustments where we feel they are in the best interests of the children.

Keeping Communication Open

As Headteacher, I want to reassure parents that I am always happy to discuss any concerns, questions or suggestions. The Governing Body and I are committed to ensuring that communication with parents remains open, transparent and constructive.

It is a shame that some concerns have been raised in a manner that is not conducive to the positive relationships we want to maintain within our school community. Respect and treating others with kindness



St Leonards CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

are fundamental values of our school, and these values should underpin the way we communicate with one another, including when we may disagree or have concerns.

We absolutely recognise that parents will not always agree with every decision that is made, and we welcome constructive questions and feedback. However, we ask that concerns are raised respectfully and directly with the school so that they can be properly understood, discussed and, where necessary, addressed.

If you are unsure about a decision, have a concern, or hear something that you feel may not be correct, please come and speak to me directly. This allows us to provide you with accurate information rather than concerns or misunderstandings becoming amplified through informal online discussions.

There will inevitably be changes and developments as we continue to improve and shape our provision, and I appreciate parents' patience and understanding while some of these arrangements are being finalised.

Most importantly, please do not rely on information shared through informal online conversations. If you have a question or concern, please come directly to me so that I can provide you with the correct information and, where appropriate, involve the Governing Body.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us. The decisions we make are always considered carefully, with the needs, safety, education and wider experiences of our children at the heart of them.

Key Dates for the year ahead

Please find below key dates for the year ahead. We have tried to plan in these early to give parents and carers plenty of notice. However, some dates may change if needed and there will be additional things that come up that we will need to add but we will let you know these in advance if this is the case.

September

Monday 14th Sept Rev Phil in to do assembly (Holy Cross)

Wednesday 30th Sept - Phonics workshop

October

Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th October - SEND Parents Evenings - slips will go out to book these this year

Thursday 8th October - Fox Class PE Multi Skills Festival at Warneford (9:30am-11am more information to follow in due course)

Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th - Parents Evening

Monday 19th October - Rev Phil in to do assembly (Harvest)

November

Wednesday 4th November - Hedgehog Class PE Multi Skills Festival at Warneford (9:30am-11am more information to follow in due course)

Friday 6th Nov - Workshop with the church in school 1pm - 1:40pm

Monday 9th Nov - Rev Phil in to do Remembrance worship

Friday 13th Nov - Children in Need

Wednesday 18th Nov - Reading Workshop

Monday 30th Nov - Workshop with the church in school 1pm - 1:40pm

December

Monday 7th December - Nativity Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th Dec - Nativity 1:30pm

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Lunch



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

Wednesday 16th December - Stories and Carols by Candlelight

January

Monday 4th Jan - TD Day

Friday 8th January - Friday 12th February - Fox Class Swimming Lessons

Monday 18th Jan - Rev Phil in to do Worship

Thursday 21st January - Badgers PE Multi Skills Festival at Warneford (9:30am-11am more information to follow in due course)

February

Monday 22nd Feb - Blue Kite TD Day

March

Monday 1st - Workshop with the church in school St David's Day

Thursday 4th March - World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character

Wednesday 17th - Workshop with the church in school St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th - SEND Parents Evening

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd - Parents Evening

April

Friday 16th April - Friday 21st May - Badgers Swimming Lessons

Wednesday 28th April - Owl Class PE Fundamentals Festival at Warneford (9:30am-11am more information to follow in due course)

Friday 23rd April - Workshop with the church in school St George's Day

May

WC Monday 10th May - KS2 SATs

Wednesday 19th May - Friday 21st May - PGL

June

Monday 7th June - TD Day

Wednesday 9th June - Swimming Gala

Tuesday 9th -10th June - Y4 Multiplication Check

Monday 14th June - Thursday 17th June - Y6 Bikeability

WC Tuesday 14th June - KS1 Phonics Screening

Friday 18th June - Sports Day

July

Monday 5th July - TD Day

Tuesday 13th July - Y6 Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday 14th July - 1:30pm and 5:30pm Y6 Production

Thursday 15th July - Transition morning

Monday 19th July - Reports to parents

Thursday 22nd July - Leavers Service and pizza event

Friday 23rd July - Last day of term

Summer fete TBC

Best wishes,



Mrs C Johnson
Headteacher