

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already in Week 6 of the Autumn Term! The children have settled really well into their new classes and it has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence as they become familiar with their routines, teachers and new learning.

There has been lots happening across the school over the past few weeks, and the children have embraced their learning with enthusiasm. Our children have enjoyed a wide range of exciting experiences, including creating artwork which has been shared with our local church community. Year 6 have even had the opportunity to try astronaut food as part of their learning, while Badger Class welcomed Jonathan's Jungle into school as part of their topic on predators – a fantastic opportunity to see some amazing animals up close!

It has been lovely to see the children developing new friendships, building their independence and taking on new challenges. We are now well into the rhythm of the school year and are looking forward to all that the rest of the term will bring.

There are lots more exciting opportunities and events planned, and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure our children have a happy, successful and rewarding year at St Leonard's.

Values for Life

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

This term, we continue to focus on **respect** and what this looks like in our everyday interactions with one another. Respect is not only about how we treat the children in our school; it is also about how adults communicate with and treat one another.

As a school community, we want to model respectful relationships for our children. This includes the way we speak to members of staff, how we communicate with other parents and carers, and how we respond when we may have a different view or concern. We understand that there may be times when parents and carers have questions, worries or frustrations, and we are always happy to listen and work together to find a positive way forward. Equally, we ask that conversations remain polite, calm and respectful at all times.

As a Christian school, respect is rooted in the belief that every person is made in the image of God and is therefore valued and worthy of dignity and kindness. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, reminding us of the importance of treating others as we would wish to be treated.

The Blue Kite Trust is currently finalising their updated **Parent Code of Conduct**, which sets out the expectations we have for positive and respectful communication between parents, carers, staff and the wider school community. We will share this with you shortly.

By modelling respect in the way we communicate and work together, we help our children to understand the importance of kindness, dignity and compassion and continue to build a school community where everyone feels valued, safe and respected.



Pupil Leadership



We are delighted to announce that we have now appointed our new Head Boy and Head Girl for this academic year.

A huge congratulations to Max and Elphie, who have been chosen for these important roles. They impressed us with their applications and will have the opportunity to represent our school, welcome and show visitors around, support school events and be positive role models for other children.
We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing them grow into their new leadership roles throughout the year. Well done, Max and Elphie!

Lunch Boxes

We have noticed recently that some of the lunchboxes coming into school are not always as balanced or healthy as they could be. We would like to remind families that a nutritious lunch helps children to stay focused, have plenty of energy and make the most of their afternoon.

Please try to include a balanced selection of foods, such as a sandwich, wrap or other source of carbohydrates, some fruit or vegetables, and a source of protein or dairy. Water is the preferred drink for school.

We appreciate that every child has different preferences, but we encourage families to think about variety and balance when preparing lunchboxes. Please remember that sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed for school lunchboxes.

Also, a reminder that **St Leonard's is a nut-free school**. Due to allergies within our school community, please do not send nuts or products containing nuts in lunchboxes, including nut butters and products such as some cereal bars and pesto or Nutella. Please check packaging carefully if you are unsure.

Thank you for your support in helping us to promote healthy eating and keep all of our children safe.

Online Safety

As children become increasingly confident using technology, it is important that we continue to support them in staying safe online. Even at primary school age, children may be using tablets, games consoles, YouTube and other online platforms, so regular conversations about online safety are essential.

We encourage parents and carers to **talk regularly with their children about what they are doing online**, including who they are talking to, what games they are playing and what they are watching. Remind children that they should never share personal information, speak to people they do not know or agree to meet someone they have only met online.



It is also important that children know what to do if something online makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or upset. Encourage them to **stop, close the app and tell a trusted adult**. Reassure them that they will never be in trouble for coming to you for help.

Please also check the **age ratings and parental controls** on the apps, games and platforms your child uses. Many popular platforms have age restrictions for a reason, and these should be followed.

There are some excellent websites available to help parents and carers understand the latest online safety advice, set parental controls and talk to children about their digital lives:

- **National Online Safety – #WakeUpWednesday** – useful guides for parents covering apps, games, social media and emerging online risks.
- **Internet Matters** – practical advice, age-specific guidance and information about parental controls.
- **Childnet** – resources to help children and families stay safe and positive online.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** – advice and resources for children, parents, carers and schools.
- **CEOP Education** – advice about keeping children safe from online abuse and exploitation.

At school, we will continue to teach children about being safe, responsible and respectful online. Working together, we can help our children develop positive digital habits and enjoy the opportunities technology provides while staying safe.

Harvest Donations

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we have been talking with the children about being thankful for the food we have and how we can show kindness and compassion by helping others in our community.We are collecting donations for our local food bank and would be incredibly grateful for any items that families are able to contribute. The food bank is currently particularly in need of:

Tinned meat and tinned pies, Tinned fish, Baked beans, 1-litre bottles of squash, Long-life milk and juice, Small jars of coffee, 500g and 1kg bags of sugar, Tinned fruit, Tinned plum tomatoes,Tinned vegetables, Tins or packets of soup, Tinned puddings, such as rice pudding, custard.

Every donation, no matter how small, can make a real difference to local families who may be experiencing difficult times. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Upcoming Key Dates:

October
Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th October - SEND Parents Evenings
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

Best wishes,

Johnson



Mrs C Johnson
Headteacher