

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the start of Term 2. I hope you all enjoyed a restful half-term break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together.

It has been lovely to see the children return to school, reunited with their friends and ready for the weeks ahead. They have settled back into their routines quickly and have made a positive start to the new term. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, positivity and resilience they continue to show in their learning and wider school life.

As we move into the second half of the Autumn Term, there is lots to look forward to, with plenty of exciting learning opportunities, events and experiences planned. We look forward to another happy and successful term, supporting every child to learn, grow and thrive as part of our St Leonard's community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Values for Life

Our Value this Term: Respect – Through a Christmas Lens

As we approach Christmas, we will be thinking about what it means to show respect to others during this special time of year. Through the Christmas story and our everyday actions, we will explore kindness, generosity, compassion and consideration for others. We will encourage the children to think about how small acts of respect can make a big difference, helping everyone to feel valued, included and part of our school community.

For parents, it is a way of explaining how children can demonstrate respect during the festive season, both in school and at home.

This might include:

- Respect for others: Being kind, thoughtful and considerate towards family, friends and those around us.
- Respect for differences: Understanding that not everyone celebrates Christmas in the same way, or at all.
- Respect through giving: Thinking about others, sharing and showing generosity rather than focusing only on receiving gifts.
- Respect for our community: Showing appreciation, helping others and looking out for those who may need support.
- Respect in the Christmas story: Reflecting on the kindness, humility, love and compassion shown through the story of Jesus' birth.

National Read Aloud Challenge

In the summer, one of our pupils took part in the Read Aloud challenge and came first in the South West region. We would like to congratulate Reuben on this achievement.

As recognition of his achievement, Reuben was sent a code that gives 50% off to the annual Fonetti home network subscription. If you would like to take advantage of this, the code is: NRAC26-Winner.



Pantomime

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming whole-school trip to the pantomime! This is always a highlight of the festive calendar and a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy a shared experience outside the classroom. The children will have the chance to experience the excitement of live theatre, enjoy the performances and join in with all the fun and laughter that a pantomime brings.

All children will have their usual lunchtime arrangements before we depart. Children are welcome to bring one filling snack to enjoy during the interval in the afternoon, as we are not expected to return to school until approximately 5.00pm. Please ensure this is a suitable individual snack rather than large bags of sweets or multiple treats.

Please note that if your child is not attending the pantomime, **they will need to be collected from school promptly at 1.00pm**.

When we return to school, all children will be brought back into the school building, the gat to the playground will be opened and teachers will dismiss as normal from their classrooms.

We are sure it will be a fantastic day and a lovely way to help build the excitement as we approach Christmas! A further letter will be sent out shortly with all the details on.

Stories by Candlelight

We will be holding Stories by Candlelight on Wednesday 16th December for Owl and Hedgehog Class. This will start at 5pm and finish at 5:30pm. Please drop and pick up your child from the playground – this will coincide with the end of carols by candlelight which KS2 will be leading on the playground.

Carols by Candlelight

We will be holding Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday 16th December for KS2. This will start at 5pm and finish at 5:30pm. Parents are invited to come and watch the children sing and get in to the Christmas spirit. Children are invited to dress up in their winter clothes and Christmas hats and decorations.

Please bring your child into school through the main playground gate and hand your child over to the class teachers who will take them inside to get ready. Once everyone is here, the children will come outside and sing to everyone by candlelight. After the show, children will go back into class with their class teachers who will then bring them out as a class and supervise seeing them collected by an adult. Please note, no child will be allowed to walk home alone – an adult must collect them.

Key Dates for the year ahead

Please find below key dates for the term ahead.

November
Wednesday 11th November – Rev Phil in to do Remembrance worship
Friday 13th November – Children in Need Non School Uniform
Wednesday 18th November – Reading Workshop
Monday 30th November – 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 9th December – Blue Kite Carol Service at Christ Church for the choir
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December – Stories and Carols by Candlelight
Thursday 10th December – School Pantomime

January
Monday 4thth January – TD Day
Tuesday 5th January – School Open
Friday 8th January – Friday 12th February – Fox Class Swimming Lessons

Best wishes,

Mrs C Johnson
Headteacher