



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

12th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!

It's been a busy couple of weeks and it's been great seeing the children able to get outside and enjoying the sunshine - It's easy for us to forget the primeval joy of how it felt to run around on a field with your friends and what this does for the children's wellbeing.

This term may be a short one but it's action-packed – especially for our Year Sixes. They deserve an extra-special mention as they are busy working hard in their first SATs test as I type. This is something they've worked so hard for and we wish them all the best.

Take care,

Mr Beadnell.

Values Cup

The value for the term is Service and we have been looking at how we can use our talents to serve others and brighten up their lives. Our winners of the Values Cup were Karma, Casper, Grace, Connie, Theo, Harry and Skyanna. Well done to you all

PE Days Term 4

Monday – Years 4 and 6

Tuesday – Years Hedgehogs 3, 5 and 6

Wednesday – EYFS and Year 4

Thursday – Hedgehogs and Year 3

Friday – Y5 swimming

Easter Winners

Congratulations to all of you who participated in the St Leonard's PTA Easter Hunt. We handed out the prizes in assembly. Massive thanks to our wonderful PTA for organizing the event. I know that they have lots of ideas in the pipeline, their support is hugely appreciated and is always of great benefit to the children.

Secondary Choices

Just a quick reminder for our year 5 parents out there. Crazy though it may seem, the application deadline for secondary school placement is 31st October. Contact us via the school office if you need more information. Open day events are available on the secondary school websites.

Ukulele Concert

Year 4 and 5 parents are invited to a ukulele concert which will take place in the school hall (Glastonbury was unavailable) on 17th June at 1:15. The children have really been gaining in confidence with their musical proficiency and are very much looking forward to getting the opportunity to entertain you with a live performance!

Sports Roundup

The school boys football team have been in action again this month, this time against Goddard Park and Catherine Wayte. There were some great skills on show and their attitude to teamwork was exemplary. We are currently in the process of arranging some matches for the girls team who are super confident and more than up for the challenge.

Parliament Trip

This year, two members of the School Council will be joining other children from across the Blue Kite Academy Trust in a visit to the Houses of Parliament. This is always a fantastic visit and a brilliant opportunity for a couple of our children to experience a visit to such an important, historic and exciting location. We are hoping this will become an established event in the future.

The Big Adventure Club



The school's after-school wraparound care facility is now up and running and The Big Adventure Club are doing a great job of keeping the children safe and nurtured. There's always plenty to do so if you are looking for some high-quality wrap-around provision, look no further. Contact them on 07832 304452 or visit <https://www.thebigclub.co.uk/> for more information.

Trips and Visits

Our children have been getting out and about this term with Year 3 visiting Westonbirt Arboretum and the whole of Key Stage 1 heading off to Bowood. Both trips were brilliant and the children were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Thank you to our parent helpers, your assistance is invaluable and we know how much the children enjoy it when you join us.

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 develop how we use it even more in the future.

Upcoming TD Days

Monday 2nd June

Term dates for 2025/2026 can be found on the school website under "parent information"

Other dates to remember:

Week beginning 12th May KS2 SATs take place in school – Breakfast starts at 8:10am

12.5.25 Endangered Species special meal with Dolce – see menu's

21.5.25 – 23.5.25 Year 6 Residential

School returns on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 for Term 6.

4.6.25 Year 5/6 swimming gala (some year 4's are acting as reserves)

9.6.25 Timetable check for Y4 & KS1 Phonic check can start from this week

17.6.25 Year 4 & 5 parents are invited to a ukulele concert 1:15 – 1:45

18.6.25 Year 6 Rounders event

3.7.25 Blue Kite Sports Event after school for selected Y5 & 6 children. Details to follow

4.7.25 School Sports Day & Picnic until 1:40pm

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot – first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send SnapMap directly to friends, but stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows children to mark locations. If enabled, your child's regular visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending or receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Sources: Status of Mind Social media and young people's mental health | Live in Line - Children's Commissioner Report | <https://supportandpact.com/en-US/Help/Integrity/Integrity.aspx?ref=www/187.com/Independent.cfm>
<https://mashable.com/article/instagram-status-and-a-mood-swirler-bus-against-Commissioner-2019>, Young People and Social - AHS, Likes and Behaviors: Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia



**National
Online
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#WakeUpWednesday