

St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

9th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your family had a restful and enjoyable break and are settling smoothly into the rhythm of the final term. As we begin the second week, there's a wonderful sense of energy and enthusiasm throughout the school. It's always a joy to see the children return with big smiles, eager to learn, play, and make the most of these last few weeks together.

This term is always a special one — full of celebrations, achievements, and memorable moments. Whether it is class projects, end-of-year performances, sports days, or preparing our older pupils for their next steps, there's so much to look forward to. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. We're excited to make this term a positive and fulfilling experience for every child.

Here's to a fantastic final term!

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 Rosie C, Melissa, Joshua – well done!

PE Days Term 6

Monday – Owls, Hedgehogs, Years 4, and 6
Tuesday – Years 3, 5 and 6
Wednesday – Year 4
Thursday – Hedgehogs and Year 3
Friday – Y5 swimming

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Wilding

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Mrs Wilding, whose last day at St Leonard's Primary School will be on Wednesday after two years of running the school office.

During her time with us, Mrs Wilding has been a valued member of our team, bringing warmth, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for supporting our pupils. Whether helping and caring for them when they come into the school office, assisting around the school, or through deploying her wealth of administrative and communication skills, her positive presence and commitment have made a real difference in the lives of the children and her colleagues alike.

We are truly grateful for everything Mrs Wilding has contributed to our school community, and while we are sad to see her go, we wish her every happiness and success in her next chapter.

Thank you, Mrs Wilding — you will be greatly missed! 🌸

Swimming Gala

Huge news from the poolside this week. Several of our children attended the annual competitive swimming gala and were joined by a number of other local schools. Our children performed magnificently and their impressive combined haul of medals secured them first place! A massive well done to all those children involved and a huge thanks to those staff involved in order to make it happen.

3G Pitch

The installation of the new 3G pitch right next to the school is making real progress and the most exciting part for us is the space in the fence next to the school where a gate will be installed. This gate will provide direct access for us during the school day. Having access to such a superb facility is going to be hugely beneficial to all our children and I know I am not the only one who cannot wait for it to open ready for September.

This will also include some extra parking spaces, including EV spaces.

We have also been contacted by the parish council who are concerned about parking near the school. They have commented *"We have received reports that some vehicles are routinely parked on grassy areas, resulting in damage to our shared green spaces- particularly along Churchill Avenue, Lonsdale Close and Linley Road. We understand that in some instances, this damage may be caused by parents visiting the school during drop off and pick up times. Parking on the grass not only degrades our communal spaces but also disrupts natural drainage and incurs additional maintenance costs for our community. We kindly ask that all visitors be mindful of parking only in designated areas and that parents are reminded of these guidelines to help preserve the charm and sustainability of our village."*

Parliament Trip

The Blue Kite Academy Trust took over 50 children from across all the schools in the Trust on a trip to Parliament for the day at the end of last term. Some members of the St Leonard's school council were lucky enough to be a part of this and they served as superb ambassadors for the school. We are hoping this develops into a regular occurrence and more of our children will get this experience in the future.

The Big Adventure Club



The school's after-school wraparound care facility is up and running and The Big Adventure Club are doing a great job of keeping the children safe and nurtured. There is 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

Many of our year 6 children made the PGL trip to Osmington Bay in Weymouth. The weather was (mostly) agreeable and the children had an absolutely fantastic time. They were a real credit to you, as parents, and to the school in every way. It is on trips like this that memories for life are made. ***If your child is currently in year 5 and would be interested in going on the trip next year, please contact the school office. In order to make the trip viable, we will need to take a minimum of 20 children.*** When we asked in Term 3, we would have had insufficient numbers to make the trip viable, so please do think carefully. Deposits need to be paid early in term 1 next academic year

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!

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.

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

Upcoming TD Days

1st & 2nd September 2025

Other dates to remember:

11th June Group 1 Reception 2025 visit pm
12th June Y4 Multiplication test & EYFS Phonics Screen Check
13th June No swimming for Year 5
17th June 1:15 – 1:45 Ukulele concert for Y4 & Y5 parents
18th June Y6 Rounders festival
18th June Group 2 Reception 2025 visit pm
19th June U turn in to visit Y6
23rd June Y5 & Y6 photos
25th June Group 3 Reception 2025 visit pm
1st July Football trials for current Y4 & Y5 Boys and Girls – No football club for Y5 & Y6
3rd July after school Blue Kite Games for selected Y6
4th July Sports Day – more details to follow – No swimming for Y5, but Martial Arts still taking place
8th July Fire Service in across the school
14th July Rock & Pop Roadshow in to perform to KS2
15th July Transition morning for current YR-Y5
16th July School Disco organised by PTA – more details to follow
17th July Y6 School performance 1:15 pm & 6pm – More details to follow
18th July School reports issued
23rd July Leavers service 9am Y6 parents welcome pm Y6 Pizza and film afternoon details to follow

School reopens to children in Term 1 on Wednesday 3rd September for Y1-Y6

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

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CENSORED

dangerous challenges

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. Figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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