



# St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas is fast approaching and we have lots of lovely things to look forward to. Please remember to keep an eye on the newsletters for key dates as well as parent mail.

Our beautiful Christmas tree has arrived in school. Children are invited to bring in a decoration to hang on the tree as part of their legacy at St Leonard's. Please can we ask these are brought in as soon as possible.

Please see specifically the pantomime section in the newsletter for important information regarding this trip.

## Values Cup

I would like to congratulate Alfie and Eddie for being awarded the values cup. They have shown our value of trust, which is great to see.

## Swimming

Just a reminder that our Fox class (Year 3) will continue their swimming on a Friday morning up to Christmas - last session is 13th December. After Christmas, Otter Class (Year 4) will start their swimming lessons. Information & instalments are set up on Parentmail now for Year 4 parents.

## PE Days Term 2

Monday - Fox Class (Y3), Badger Class (Y5) and Deer Class (Y6)  
Tuesday - Hedgehog Class (Y1/2), Badger Class (Y5) and Deer Class (Y6)  
Wednesday - Otter Class (Y4) and Owl Class (R/Y1)  
Thursday - Otter Class (Y4) and Hedgehog Class (Y1/2)  
Friday - Fox Class (Y3) Swimming

## Christmas Fair

We are very excited that we will be holding a Christmas fair this year on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper over the top of their school uniform on this day.

Please pick your children up as normal on this day and entry to the fair will be through the main office.

There will be Christmas crafts for sale from the children, refreshments, raffles and much more so please do come along and support the school to raise money. We are currently fundraising for a new outdoor classroom!

### **Pantomime**

We are very excited that our yearly trip to the pantomime is drawing closer. We will be going to the Pantomime on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The children will have lunch in school and then we will be leaving on the coach to go to the theatre.

If you have chosen not to send your child on this trip, they will need to be collected promptly from the school office at 12:30pm on the day.

**All children will be expected to be in school in the morning.**

For those children going on the trip, we ask that the children bring a small plastic bag with a disposable drink (not fizzy or energy) and a snack for the interval. The snack can be a small amount of sweets if you wish. No Nuts or nut products. However, the snack does need to be filling, as the children will not be getting home until 5:40pm.

When we return to school, we will bring the children back to the school building and the school gate will be opened to the playground.

The children will be dismissed from their classrooms. No child will be allowed to walk home alone.

**School uniform must be worn by all children please.**

### **Nursery Consultation**

Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to complete the consultation link for a proposed nursery at St Leonard's. I will send out a letter when the consultation closes but on the whole, the responses have been very positive.

To address just a couple of points that have been raised so far and to reassure parents, please see below.

- Wraparound Care should be the priority in my last newsletter I did share that we have prioritised wraparound care first before looking at a potential nursery. At this current time, wraparound care is not financially viable due to the low numbers of children that require this service. To this end, I have applied for a potential grant which would allow us to secure wraparound care for the next 2 years if successful. During this time, we would then be able to advertise this service and work on the sustainability of the service for the future. We are hoping to have confirmation of this venture after Christmas and if successful, we will be looking to reinstate this provision from March 2025.
- Space in the school - will this be at the detriment to other classes or reduce our class sizes permanently to a 6 class structure? The answer to this question is no. We will retain 7 classrooms for 7 classes. The plan for the nursery is to utilize the outdoor pod space and the area of the field around this building which is not currently used by the children. The pod itself is mainly used for eating lunches in. Before this building was built, children had their lunches and hot dinners in the hall, which is how most schools operate. If successful with the nursery grant, we would revert back to this system and the nursery would operate from the pod which would be refurbished and repurposed into a beautiful nursery space.
- The current pre-school in Blunsdon - As part of the consultation process, I have been in contact with the pre-school and have discussed our plans with them. The plan would be for us to take in 3 year olds, which would reduce the impact on the pre-school who offer provision from age 2. As well as this, the pre-school have reported that they are due to be full from April 2025. With new developments going up all around the area, we feel that Blunsdon is going to need further capacity for Nursery spaces.

I hope this answers a few questions regarding the proposals we currently have in place but please feel free to come and talk to me about this if you have any further questions.

### **Stories by Candlelight**

We will be holding Stories by Candlelight on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December for Owl and Hedgehog Class. This will start at 5pm and finish at 5:45pm. Please drop and pick up your child from the office. It is now too late to sign up for this as we have bought the refreshments, I'm afraid.

### **Carols by Candlelight**

We will be holding Stories by Candlelight on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for KS2. This will start at 5pm and finish at 5:45pm. Parents are invited to come and watch the children sing and get in to the Christmas spirit. Our PTA will be selling refreshments of tea and coffee and mince pies outside of Hedgehog class and children (and adults) 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.

### **Nativity**

We are very excited to share with you that Owl and Hedgehog Class will be putting on a Nativity for you to come and see on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm and entry will be by ticket only.

Tickets will be issued to the children on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December (2 per family). Please arrive at the front office from 1:10pm with your ticket to avoid delays in getting into the performance.

### **Christmas Dinner**

We will once again be serving a scrumptious Christmas dinner this term. This year our Christmas dinner will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This is available to book now on School Grid - If you need an account, please email Mrs Wilding on [admin.stleonards@dbat.org.uk](mailto:admin.stleonards@dbat.org.uk) before Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Save the Children**

To raise money for Save the Children on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, children are allowed to wear a Christmas Jumper over the top of school uniform for a donation of £1 on this day. This will be set up on parentmail as we are unable to accept cash.

### **Clubs**

If you would like to sign your child up to a club for Term 3 and 4, please see the link below before Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

<https://forms.office.com/e/z3cQM0wjjw>

### **Upcoming TD Days**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

### Key dates coming up

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December - EYFS and KS1 Stories by Candlelight 5pm
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Fair - school uniform with a Christmas jumper
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children - school uniform with a Christmas jumper
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 Carols by Candlelight 5pm
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Pantomime
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of term

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Johnson