

St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to open by welcoming you all to St Leonard's CE Primary Academy for a new school year, whether you are a new member of our parent community or a seasoned campaigner! It has been a real pleasure to see the children back in school for the start of the Autumn Term. I hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday! The children are looking smart and certainly seem pleased to see their friends once again. Whilst some children inevitably found it tricky at first to wave goodbye at the gates on the first morning, we are extremely proud of the way the children have settled into their new classes and begun their learning journey with their new teachers.

Values for Life

Our value this term is 'Friendship'. Friends are incredibly important as children grow up. As part of this value we consider how to be a good friend and how to encourage each other. Friendship is a key concept for Christians. Jesus tells stories about a heavenly banquet to which we are all invited. The barriers between people are broken down in a loving community based around God. True friendship allows each person to grow, to become themselves. This ensures that the unique individuality of each person is recognised, echoing the value placed by God on the preciousness of each person.

Welcome to new staff

Many parents will be aware that we have welcomed a new staff member this September! We are delighted to welcome Mr. Harmer who is teaching Otter Class (Year 4) to the staff team.

Class Names

You may have noticed that this year we have decided to name our classes. After much discussion, the new class names are as follows:

Reception / Year 1 - Owl Class
Year 1 / Year 2 - Hedgehog Class
Year 3 - Fox Class
Year 4 - Otter Class
Year 5 - Badger Class
Year 6 - Deer Class

Pupil Leadership



As we move into a new school year, we have decided that we would like to expand our Pupil Leadership and appoint a Head Boy and Head Girl. Year 6's were given a letter on Wednesday to explain the job role and how to apply. If your child would like to be considered, they must hand in their letters of application by Friday 13th September. Our Senior Leadership Team will then look over these and a selection of children will be asked to come for a short interview the following week. The Head Boy and Head Girl will have responsibilities for showing visitors around, representing the school and be excellent role models to others. We wish our Year 6's the best of luck and look forward to reading their applications.

PE

I know that these have already been communicated but the following days are the P.E. days for each year group:

Owl Class - Wednesday
Hedgehog Class - Thursday and Friday
Fox Class - Monday and Friday (Swimming)
Otter Class - Monday and Wednesday
Badger Class - Monday and Wednesday
Deer Class - Tuesday and Thursday

Homework

Homework will be set from Friday 13th September. *The expectations for homework are below:*

Reception and Year 1:

Reception and Year 1 will be set phonics work to do at home based on their Phonics sessions each week. Later in the term there will be a parent workshop for our reception parents which explains the process in more detail.

This year, in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 we will use Tapestry to communicate with parents. If your child is in Reception, you will have been sent a login to this. For any child in Year 1 and Year 2, please continue to use the same login used as before.

Year 2-6:

Reading - This is such an important skill and we do ask that the children read as much as they can at home but at least three times a week.

The children in Year 2- 4 will have a Reading record sent home to record their reading.

We ask parents *and carers in years 2 and 3* to sign and date on three occasions each week to demonstrate that your child is reading regularly at home.

In Year 4 we start to encourage the children to start to log their reading entries and just ask that you check and sign each week to validate that the reading has taken place.

Maths - this will be set on My Maths. Your child will already have a login to this account and we will share these again with you.

English - this will be set on **Classroom Secrets Kids**. Your child will already have a login to this account and we will share these again with you.

English and Maths will be set on alternate weeks **starting with Maths**.

Science - As a school we use Developing Experts as a resource and each term, resources will be shared via this platform that your child can also login to access. **This is voluntary.**

On the website you will find a Homework page which will identify which subject is being set each week.

Medication

It is really important that if your child requires any medicine and has an Individual Health Care Plan written, that the correct medicine is in school and in date. Any unused medicines and empty bottles will be returned home as school is not allowed to dispose of medicine. If something has changed regarding your child's medical needs, for example allergies, it is really important that you let the school know. We can then make a decision together as to whether the school nurse needs to be involved and if medication needs to be kept in school. Please note we do not administer short term medication. They should also not bring in throat sweets or other medication into school.

Asthma

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, they do require their blue inhaler to be in school. If your child has been diagnosed since joining the school, please ensure school are notified, as we keep an asthma register. If your child no longer needs an inhaler but was placed on the school asthma register please inform the school office of these changes.

Stationary

Just a reminder that we will provide all the stationary that the children need. Please do not send pencil cases into school as there is limited space in each of the classrooms. Any brought into school, will be returned home.

Parents Evening

These will take place on:

Tuesday 22nd October and Wednesday 23rd October

SEND Parents Evening will be the WC: Monday 14th September and teachers will be in contact to arrange these with you individual.

Term Dates

We will be following the Swindon calendar for term dates for the academic year 2024-25.
A copy is available on the school website.

Upcoming TD Days

Monday 4th November

Friday 20th December

Parentmail

Just to make you aware that the link between our MIS system and Parentmail is not currently working. As soon as it is established, we will continue to send information to parents via parentmail and send out details of home to join to our new starters and Reception children.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Johnson