



# St Leonards CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be the last newsletter from me for a while as I prepare to take my maternity leave. However, I will be coming back in at different points to see the children and to oversee some of the upcoming projects I have started. Baby Johnson will also want to meet all the children!

Mr Beadnell who will be covering my maternity leave has been in to meet the staff and children and we have completed a successful handover. If you would like to contact him, please send enquires to [head.stleonards@dbat.org.uk](mailto:head.stleonards@dbat.org.uk) or to [admin.stleonards@dbat.org.uk](mailto:admin.stleonards@dbat.org.uk).

If you have any questions do please come and speak to me.

## Values Cup

I would like to congratulate Elsie, Bella, Freddie and Isabelle, for being awarded the values cup. They have shown our value of generosity, which is great to see.

## PE Days Term 3

Monday - Owl Class (R/Y1), Hedgehog Class (Y1/2), Badger Class (Y5) and Deer Class (Y6)

Tuesday - Badger Class (Y5) and Deer Class (Y6)

Wednesday - Otter Class (Y4) and Fox Class (Y3)

Thursday - Fox class (Y3) and Hedgehog Class (Y1/2)

Friday - Otter Class (Y4) Swimming

## Road Safety

We have had a few reports recently of children not being safe on the road when walking to or from school. Please see below some points on road safety and go through with your child.

### Walking

#### When walking...

Where there is a **pavement or footway**, use it.

Take care when crossing **cycle lanes** on the road. Cyclists may be travelling quietly but can be faster than other **traffic**.

If you are looking after someone younger than you, always hold their hand when on the road.

When there is no pavement, walk on the right hand side of the road to face the **traffic** coming towards you.

Walk one behind the other at bends in the road or at night, or if there is a lot of traffic.

Take special care if you cannot see the road very far ahead.

### **The Importance of Reading**

Reading is the most important part of learning in Literacy and in school, as it is the basis for many other social and emotional developments in children from a very young age.

There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.

Regularly reading to a child for the love of it provides a connection between parent and child from the very early days and helps build strong family ties. Lines from favourite stories enter the family vocabulary.

Families who enjoy reading together have more opportunities for discussion, developing empathy and attachment. Reading to their infant is one of the greatest gifts parents can give. By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing

#### What can you do as a parent to help support your child's reading?

It is so important to regularly read to, and listen to our children read even in our very busy lives-just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference. Regularly sending the school reading book in to be changed is so important. Children are exposed to books and other reading materials in school on a daily basis, but school needs parental support at home to build on these reading skills.

Encourage your child to retell a story they have heard. This will help your child to put ideas in the right order. Encourage your child to read things around them - cereal packets, notices and signs in shops. Discuss words. Read with your child - 10 minutes a day can help. All of this makes such a difference to your children's love of reading and has a massive impact in school.

Happy Reading!

### **Football**

We have exciting news. Our boys' football team won their recent match. The team played very well and as it was a cup match, they will now proceed to the next stage. Well done to everyone involved - we can't wait to see how you get on in the next fixture!

### **Outdoor Classroom**

We are very excited to announce that work on the new Outdoor Classroom will begin the WC 10<sup>th</sup> March. You will notice that some of the playground and field will be sectioned off during this work for the safety of the children. This space will provide the children with a safe place to reflect, pray and a quiet area to read in during break and lunch times. Thank you again to our PTA and The Prestbury Cottage Trust who have made this possible.

### **School Dinner Price increase from April 2025**

Our food supplier, Dolce has written to inform us that the cost of school meals will be increasing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. From this date, the cost of a school meal will rise to £3.19. Blue Kite will be looking at school meal provision for 25/26 and we have asked that St Leonard's is included in that process.

### Upcoming TD Days

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Other dates**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February - school closes for half term at 1:40pm  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evenings  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Golf experience day - more information will follow in due course

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Johnson