



Leonard's Life



Issue: 14

15th December 2023

A note from Miss Roberts.....

It's been a great week in school and the children are becoming more and more excited as we get closer to Christmas!

This week, we all enjoyed our Christmas lunch on Wednesday, and wearing our Christmas jumpers certainly helped us to feel very Christmassy!

Also on Wednesday, the Choir visited Compton Close to sing to the residents. They did a super job! Thanks to Miss Bayliffe for organising!

Yesterday, we held our Christmas discos which were well attended. A special thank you to the PTFA and the staff who helped to run the events.

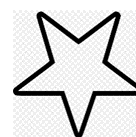
Staff Clubs

All of our staff after-school clubs have now finished for this term. Commando Joe's will still run as normal next week and Leo's Den will be open as normal.

I'm sure that you will all join with me in thanking the staff for giving up their time before and after school to offer such a wide range of clubs for our children to enjoy. More information will follow in January on our staff clubs for the Spring Term. Look at for information in our January newsletters.



School AWARDS



w/c	Class Award	Presentation Award	Punctuation Award
04/12/23			
Year N	Emmie-Louise		
Year R	Aubree		
Year 1	Charlie	Remi	Imogen
Year 2	Willow	Athiya	Robyn
Year 3	Hunter	Shukrana	Charlie
Year 4	Evan	Caius	Freya
Year 5	Mia	Henry	Phoebe
Year 6	Alessia	Fin	Alex

w/c	Achievement Award	Values Award	Presentation Award
11/12/23			
Year N	Brody		
Year R	Daniel	Hetty	Minnie
Year 1	Charlotte	Annika	Ottile
Year 2	Oscar F	Jacob	Pranaysa
Year 3	Mason	Jay	Ivy
Year 4	Harvey	Cora	Rachael
Year 5	Summer-Rose	Freddie	Phoebe
Year 6	Nilax	Mabel	Maisy

Art Award	Krisshiv	Victoria
Sports Award	Sebastian	Leo

Well done everyone!

Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties are on:

- Wed 20 Dec for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
 - Thurs 21 Dec for Nur, Rec, Y1 and Y2
- Please bring in your plate of party food from home to enjoy at the party.

German Club Party

On Tuesday, the children in German Club enjoyed a special Christmas party where they got to try some German Christmas food. They particularly enjoyed the Stollen (fruit and marzipan cake) and the Weihnachtskekse (spiced Christmas biscuits) but we had mixed reviews on the Lebkuchen (gingerbread biscuits)! Along with the Bratwurst sausages and Pretzels, the children had a great time. As you can see from the photo, there wasn't much left for the staff to try!

**Fröhliche
Weihnachten!**



Year 1 and Year 2 Wow Days

KS1 will be moving on to their new topic in Geography after Christmas: 'Is it our responsibility to help?' Children will be learning about Africa, African animals and animals that are endangered.

As part of our introduction to the topic, we would like to launch with a Wow day on:

Monday 8th January for Year 2

Tuesday 9th January for Year 1

We would like the children to come to school dressed as African animals or wear clothes that match the colour of an animal. Children could wear an animal mask as well.

Helping your child with anxiety over Christmas

The following web site might be of interest:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-if-christmas-makes-them-anxious/?utm_source=enewsletter&utm_medium=email&

DECEMBER 2023

Monday 18 th December	9:30 am – Nur/Rec Christmas Play	2:00 pm – Y1/2 Christmas Play
Tuesday 19 th December	9:30 am –Y1/2 Christmas Play	2:00 pm – Nur/Rec Christmas Play
Wednesday 20 th December	Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 Party Day– children to wear party clothes to school	
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Services for Key Stage 2 at 9:15 – 9:45 for Y5/Y6 and 10:15 – 10:45 for Y3/Y4 Nur/Rec/Y1/Y2 Party Day – children to wear party clothes to school	
Friday 22 nd December	Last Day – Non-uniform - £1 donation for school fund. School closes for Christmas	
Mon 22th Dec to Fri 5th Jan	School closed – Christmas Holidays	
JANUARY 2024		
Monday 8 th January	School reopens to pupils	
Monday 8 th January	Y2 Topic Wow Day—come to school in costumes. See above for details.	
Tuesday 9th January	Y1 Topic Wow Day—come to school in costumes. See above for details.	



w/c 04/12/2023

w/c 11/12/2023

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
R	94.35%	R	86.67%
1	98.7%	1	96.67%
2	94%	2	96.33%
3	98.1%	3	95.81%
4	91.9%	4	97.50%
5	95.8%	5	95.81%
6	92.75%	6	91.72%

Campaign reminds drivers to Stop for the Lollipop

Drivers in Staffordshire are being reminded of the importance of stopping for the lollipop in a new road safety campaign. The campaign, being coordinated by Staffordshire County Council, is reminding drivers that failing to stop for a school crossing patrol wearing the official uniform and displaying the patrol stop sign is an offence under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. It is also an offence for a driver to move off whilst the patrol is still on the road.

Stop for the lollipop signs are now being rolled out outside selected schools, including ours, to help remind drivers of their responsibilities.

David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at Staffordshire County Council said: "The School Crossing Patrols provide an important service in our communities and our lollipop ladies and gentlemen do a fantastic job in helping to keep children safe.

"While the vast majority of Staffordshire drivers are courteous and do stop for our patrols, sadly we do see incidents where drivers do not stop. This not only puts children's lives in danger but it is a criminal offence.

"The signs have been placed around the county in the vicinity of schools and near to patrol sites and we hope that they will raise awareness of the need to stop. The signs will be moved periodically to different areas during the campaign."

Staffordshire has over 220 patrols, working outside of schools and busy sections of roads. They come from all walks of life. The youngest patrol is 26 and the oldest is 83 and there is no upper age limit for the job.

The campaign also coincides with the 70th anniversary of the School Crossing patrol service which was created in 1953 with the first official patrol starting the year after. Seventy years on, the service remains paramount to the safety of pedestrians with roads becoming increasingly busy. Further information on the service and current vacancies is available on [The School Crossing Patrol Service Webpage](#).



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for all of your donations this week for our Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday.



Together, we raised a total of £187 for Save the Children. Well done everyone!

Supporting Healthy Gaming Habits

The web site below might be of interest to parents as it contains information about supporting children to develop healthy gaming habits.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/supporting-healthy-gaming-habits-for-children>

Sports Enrichment—Handball

On Tuesday 5th December, all children in school took part in our second sports enrichment day of the term. This half term's focus was handball.

Nursery joined in with the sports enrichment last week. We had great fun working together in teams collecting pretend jewels as fast as we could from the centre of the hall. We had to count how many jewels each team had collected.



Reception really enjoyed their session of handball. They had the tricky task of collecting 'treasure', they had to negotiate space and quickly collect the precious diamonds and rubies. The children worked really well as a team and communicated instructions to one another.



During their Sports Enrichment session, the Year 1 children imagined they had their own special island. The children travelled to their islands in their teams and collected treasure from the ocean. The team collecting the rubies were the winners with a total of 14 - well done!



Year 2 worked as a team to pass a minimum of 3 times before trying to score a goal. They enjoyed taking it in turns to play against other teams in mini tournament. The blue team won. Bobby and Stacey were selected as star players in handball.



Sports Enrichment—Handball

Year 3 enjoyed handball and were very competitive for the mini tournament. Each team had a coloured bib and they took it in turns to play against each other. The hardest rule to remember during a game was that only 3 steps were allowed when you have the ball. Year 3 worked well in teams and the points were very close in the end. Year 3 made sure they cheered each other on and shook hands at the end of the games to show good companionship and respect.



Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their handball session last Tuesday. They played against each other in small teams and loved the fast pace and excitement of the games. As well as the competition, they needed to apply their throwing and catching skills and also think about strategy to outwit their opponents! All in all, they had a great session.



Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed the sport enrichment this week of handball. After learning the rules and some skills practice, they split into teams and enjoyed a mini tournament. Some of the Y5 and 6 children were so keen, that they independently arranged and organised games during sports club for the younger children!



Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed competing in a handball tournament during their Sport Enrichment session. Everybody took part and each child was given the opportunity to play in several different positions so they could find out which one they were suited to most. The handball coach was extremely impressed by all of the children and thinks we have enough talent to start our team!



Pantomime at Rising Brook Church

On Wednesday 6th December, the whole school visited Rising Brook Baptist Church for a special school viewing of their pantomime. This year's pantomime was The Lost Star and we joined friends Tyra and Mugi as they left the safety of their tribe to find the lost great star. They had to brave the mountains and their enemies, the Durogs, to unlock the message of Tyra's dreams and restore hope to their people. We all had a great time and really enjoyed the show. It certainly put us in the Christmas spirit!



Wheelchair Basketball

On Wednesday 6th December, Y5 and 6 children were invited to play in a wheelchair basketball festival at Weston Road Academy. They were coached by Andy Flower, who is club coach for Stoke Spitfires Basketball Club and learnt the basic skills. They then played several games against other local schools. It was great fun and all of the children really enjoyed it.



TAKEHOME

In the news this week



Twinklepike Way, a street in York, is also known as Twinklepike Way as usually in December, every home is lit up with incredible festive lights to raise money for charity. The residents started putting up the lights in 2000 and since then, hundreds of people have come to visit them. After 20 years and raising over £100,000 for charities, the homeowners have collectively decided that it's time for a break this year, partly due to the ages of the residents. Rising energy bills and the closure of the local bank branch, where the donations are typically paid, added to the decision.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your thoughts about the decorations in the poster image. Do you like to see homes with lots of decorations outside? Are there any in your local area?
- > Can you think of different times when you use decorations? Is there a particular time when you enjoy decorating your home or classroom?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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ASSEMBLY
RESOURCE



Read the information below all about the decorations found on Twinklepike Way.

What was Twinklepike Way?

Twinklepike Way was the name given to a cul-de-sac of houses in York, where for the past 20 years, the residents lit up their homes with brightly coloured festive decorations – the street's real name is Twinklepike Way!

People came from around the UK to visit the street where they had a collection box to raise money for charity. The event has supported St Leonard's Hospice, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and several other charities over the past 20 years.

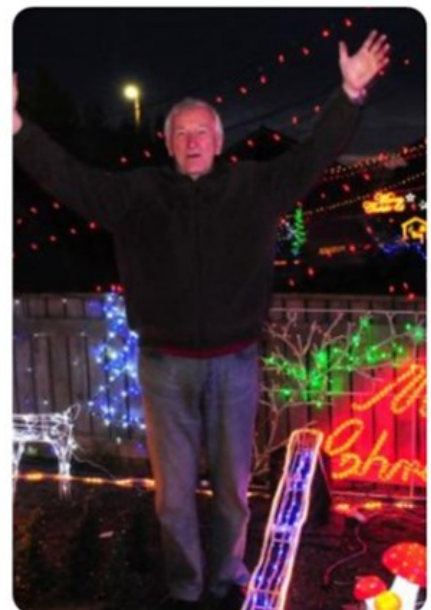
What will happen to the decorations?

The residents have said all the decorations belonging to the houses will be donated to charity.

After the group announced their decision online, hundreds of people commented to thank the residents for all their hard work over the years.

Most of us are pensioners now, and it's also due to other problems including electricity charges and the closure of the Haxby bank and the cost of replacing decorations. It was time to call it a day. Thanks to all those who have made it a success for more than 20 years.

Twinklepike Way resident Alan Reed, age 78, explained why last year was the final year of the festive lights.
Source: Twinklepike Way Facebook page.



Share your thoughts on the neighbourhood fundraising project.
Would you have liked to visit it if it was in your local area?

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Nursery and Reception Santa Trip

Nursery and Reception had a wonderful time visiting Santa at Amerton Farm. The day was magical from start to finish; we all began visiting Santa in his special grotto. We had to crawl through his elf tunnel, ride on his sleigh and even spotted some real reindeers. We also had some time to play in the play barn and on the new outdoor play equipment. We finished our day with a bumpy tractor ride and spotted the rest of Santa's reindeer.



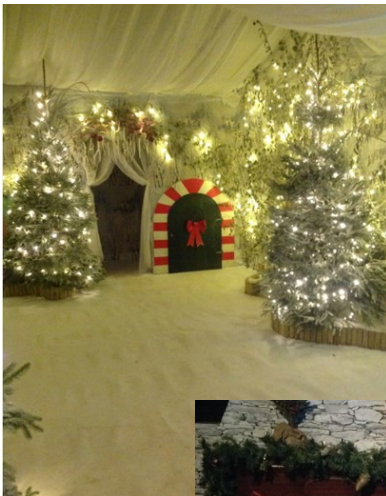
Choir Visit to Compton Close

On Wednesday, our choir had the incredible opportunity of visiting the residents at Compton Close, Lichfield Road to perform a Christmas selection of songs and readings. The choir performed 6 songs, took part in 2 sets of readings and we even had a solo from Libby in Y5. Miss Bayliffe was so incredibly proud of the children who represented our school brilliantly. They put so much effort into creating a star performance, which even included making a big Christmas card for all of the people who live there, with our thanks and wishes for a Merry Christmas inside. We hope that this is the first of many opportunities our children get to go out of school and perform to others. The determination and eagerness to spread Christmas joy was totally evident and most of us held a smile all day long after! They were even given a sweet treat at the end for all of their hard work! Well done St. Leonard's Choir.



Nursery

Nursery had a fabulous time visiting Amerton Farm last week. We got to see pigs, goats, sheep, horses, donkeys and reindeers. The highlight of the visit was meeting Santa himself who asked us all what we would like for Christmas. We got to explore the play barn and the park outside which was great fun. To finish our day off we all went on a tractor and trailer ride around the farm to see the animals in the fields. It was a truly magical day and we are very proud of all the children.



Reception

Reception have had a busy two weeks with trips to the pantomime and Amerton Farm to see Santa. The children's behaviour was super on both visits and I was very proud of them. The children enjoyed watching the pantomime and laughed along with the jokes. Visiting Santa was a magical day and we even had some fun on the farm in the play barn and on the outdoor equipment. We have started our learning on Christmas this week and have shared some of our own traditions that we have at Christmas time and comparing them to traditions around the world. We are all very excited for Christmas

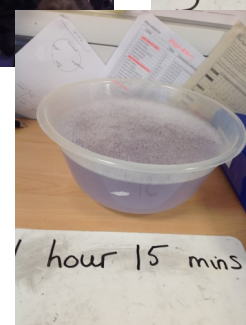
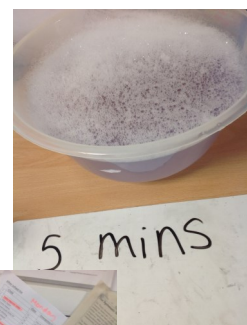
Year 1

Year One have had a very busy two weeks getting ready for Christmas! The children learnt about question marks in English and wrote some questions for Santa, who paid them a special visit over Zoom. This week the children have begun to write letters to Santa that they will post to the North Pole next week! They have also been busy rehearsing their Nativity, ready to perform for you on Monday and Tuesday.



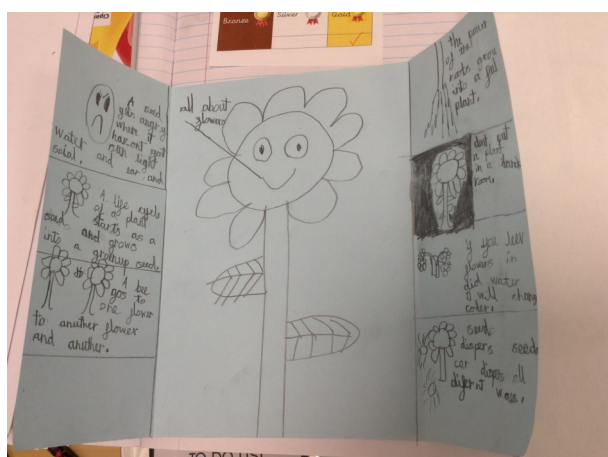
Year 2

Year 2 have been learning more about materials this week in science. They have enjoyed carrying out an investigation over time. The children were asked to make predictions and find the answer to the science question: 'Do bath bubbles last forever?' We have also investigated whether items will float or sink in water. Well done scientists.



Year 3

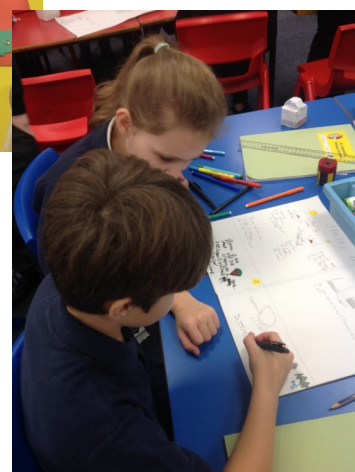
In PE year 3 are producing a Roman inspired dance/march in groups with music and performing it to each other. Last week we had some great teamwork and interesting moves which they will be improving this week. Year 3 have completed their plants topic in Science and have produced a leaflet, booklet or poster showing all of their knowledge. Miss O'Neill had been impressed with the about of children aiming for 'gold' by going above and beyond with their work. Here is an example that Miss O'Neill loved!



Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been putting the finishing touches to their Christmas cards with moving parts. In our D&T lessons, we have been learning how to make levers and linkages and we have used these to design and make our cards - there is even an extra surprise inside! The children are excited to take these home to share with their friends and families.

In Science, we have been thinking about all the learning we have done about States of Matter and we have produced posters to show all the key vocabulary and learning we have remembered. Yesterday, we watched the EYFS and KS1 Christmas plays - we loved watching these and they have made us even more excited for Christmas!



Year 5

Year 5 really enjoyed sharing their hard work on Tuesday with parents and family members. They put on a display of their topic work from this term, which included lino cut prints and Anderson shelter models. Thank you to those of you that could come in, the children really appreciated the opportunity to share their learning with you.

On Wednesday, we got into the Christmas spirit and wore our Christmassy clothes to school. We have also been busy, following tricky instructions, making large 3D snowflakes. Aren't they beautiful?!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant time over the past two weeks. We have continued with our DT, building our Anderson Shelters, having planned and designed them. I am so impressed with the outcome of these and we can't wait for you to see them. As well as this, we have fully immersed ourselves into our suspense writing this week. We are writing a narrative based on a video named 'Francis'. All children have included ambitious vocabulary and a range of grammar features, creating a tense and suspenseful narrative. In Maths, we have been tackling fractions which has been the source of some interesting maths lessons discussing different methods to solve tricky fraction problems. Christmas is certainly upon us in Y6. Yesterday, we designed Christmas jumpers and wrote Christmas themed Acrostic poems. We are looking forward to what our last week before the holiday brings!

Leo's Den

The Christmas celebrations are in full swing in Leo's Den. The children decorated the Christmas tree, working together to create a masterpiece. The children have completed various Christmas activities, the older children designed a Christmas trees using wool and glitter. The younger children have decorated a Christmas tree using glitter, pom poms and other various sparkly arts and crafts.



St Leonard's PTFA

Don't forget to buy your
**CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE TICKETS**

& be in with the chance of winning...

❄️ One of our 6 Festive
Hampers

❄️ A voucher from Francesco
Hair for a cut and finish

❄️ One of our 3 mini hampers -
including a bottle of Alcohol and
Chocolate or a Box of Biscuits

❄️ A Christmas Beer Selection
Pack donated by Candid Beer

❄️ A Family Ticket for Lower
Drayton Farm

❄️ A Computer Printer
donated by Tesco

£1 via ParentPay



EMAIL | PTFA@ST-LEONARDS-STAFFORD.STAFFS.SCH.UK
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