



# Leonard's Life



Issue: 8

Friday 24th October 2025

## A note from Miss Phillips...

This week has been packed! There is so much to be celebrated ahead of the half-term holiday.

Thank you to everyone who joined us today for our Harvest celebrations. The children sang brilliantly and much fun was had at our stay and play events. Your generous donations will go a long way in supporting the work done by The House of Bread in Stafford.

We enjoyed welcoming parents into school on Tuesday morning for our Parent Forum. This is a valuable opportunity for us to get feedback on how things are working in school. It was encouraging to hear that there are lots of good news stories to be celebrated and discuss some of the areas we can look to improve.

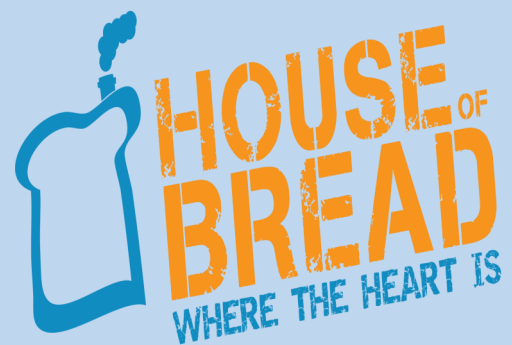
The PTA also met this week and there is lots to look forward to after half-term. Volunteers are always appreciated at any PTA events so please look out for messages about these.

Have a great half-term! We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3rd November.



We have received a number of complaints about the parking of cars whilst dropping off and collecting children from our school.

**We are asking parents to please park considerately for the safety of our pupils.** If parents do have any further concerns, please report this to the local police. Thank you for your support.



## Half Term Awards

Half Term Awards	Reaching for the Stars Award	School Values Award
Year N/R	Archie	Ella-Rose
Reception	Roza	Tristian
Year 1/2H	Delilah	Elena
Year 1/2L	Drew	Lili
Year 1/2R	Liam	James
Year 3	Charlotte	Timi
Year 4	Ivy	Wyatt
Year 5	Ryan	Mason
Year 6	Mikey	Amelia

Well done everyone!

### Reception Applications for September 2026

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 will open on 01 November 2025.

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on the Staffordshire County Council website under admissions.

The closing date is 15 January 2026.



**Attendance Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Week: 20/10/25	
Class	Attendance %
Rec	91.0
<b>Y1/2H</b>	<b>96.3</b>
Y1/2L	95.8
Y1/2R	95.0
Y3	94.8
Y4	96.0
Y5	95.7
Y6	92.1

Well done to **Y1/2H** .

Look out for your Class DoJo points!

### **Reminder: Apply for Secondary School Places!**

Parents of all Year 6 pupils need to have completed their child's application, no later than 31st October 2025.

Applications can be completed online or there is a paper version, if needed, that you can collect from the School Office.

For the online application please visit:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-secondary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

We are here if any help is needed.



Come and join us!

# EYFS OPEN DAY

Monday 17th November 2025  
1:30pm, 2pm and 2:30pm

St. Leonard's Primary School

Fairway  
Stafford  
ST16 3TW

Contact the office to book your slot:

Telephone: 01785 334960

Email: [office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

### Board Games for Calm Club.

In Calm club we are looking for any used board games at home that your family no longer needs, we would be so grateful if you could consider donating them to us. Games that encourage teamwork, problem-solving, or just plain fun would be perfect!

Please ensure that the games are:

- Complete with all pieces and instructions.
  - Suitable for ages 4-11 Years.
  - In good condition and ready to play.

Please bring any donations to the school office

Thank you!!



**Was your child born between  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2022?**

**If so, you will need to apply for a place  
at primary school for September 2026.**

You can apply online at [www.staffordshire.gov/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov/admissions)

From 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025

The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**We would like to welcome you and your  
child to join us at**

**St. Leonard's Primary School  
Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW**

**on the following date:**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November (1.30pm - 3.30pm)**

**Please contact the school office to book a place.**

Email: [office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)  
or telephone 01785 334960

[www.st-leonardsstafford.co.uk](http://www.st-leonardsstafford.co.uk)

*Please share this information with someone you know who has a child  
due to start primary school in September 2026.*

# THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.

We can help with:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic

**Burton and Uttoxeter**  
01283 504487

**Cannock & Seisdon**  
01283 352113

**Stafford**  
01283 504487

**Tamworth & Lichfield**  
01785 301027



\*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.



## Meet Our Governors



Carly Colclough, Chair of Governors:

As a parent governor at St Leonard's, I combine my working knowledge of the school along with my professional experience to support strong and effective governance. Having been a Company Director since 2018 and with over a decade of experience as a local Family Law Solicitor, I am passionate about creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. I am looking forward to working even more closely with the school leadership in my new role as Chair of Governors this year, to help set a clear strategic vision, uphold high standards, and ensure accountability across all areas. Fusing my skills from being a director with my legal background, positions me well to navigate complex decisions with integrity and focus, and I'm proud to use those skills to play a part in helping our school community flourish.



Sue Alebon, Vice Chair of Governors:

I have spent my whole career in education, having taught in a number of Staffordshire schools until I retired from the post of Headteacher of St Leonard's Primary school in 2015. In this role I was privileged to see our pupils flourish and develop a life long love of learning. During my thirty-two years of service, I have been a class teacher of children aged 7-11, specialised in music, held the post of deputy headteacher and a headteacher role for 11 years. Since September 2015 I have been a member of the Governing Body, having a particular interest in both curriculum development and safeguarding. I am looking forward to my additional role as Vice Chair and witnessing the school's continuous development.

## Nursery

This week we have been learning about Harvest time and the foods produced through farming. We discussed the names and investigated lots of different fruits and vegetables. The children enjoyed a circle time activity passing the Harvest Foods around and examined what the different fruits and vegetables look like, once they were cut in half. We learnt about the important role farmers have in producing the food that we eat and we watched how food travels from the farms to the supermarkets. The children improved their fine motor skills by scooping rice and grains, and have been painting with vegetables. In Phonics, we have been learning a poem about the weather and in Maths we have been comparing the shapes and sizes of different vegetables. The children enjoyed this week's PE session, where they were climbing and balancing on the large apparatus.



## Reception

For the last two weeks Reception have focused on 'Autumn' and 'Harvest'. We went on an Autumn walk and spotted the signs of autumn and discussed how this is different to summer. Following on from that we found out all about Harvest time and why we celebrate Harvest. Children have enjoyed exploring in our new mud kitchen too and made some lovely 'autumn soup' in the outdoor area

## Year 1/2H

Year 1/2H have enjoyed learning as a Scientist this week in the woodland walk. Children used knowledge on deciduous and evergreen trees to locate trees and leaves. They used magnifying glasses to look for clues that trees were also growing in the autumn season.

Children were visited last week by a Victorian teacher who used role play to model what classrooms used to be like for Victorian children.

In English, children have completed their draft and writing on a character description of the tiger, linked to their class story 'The tiger comes to tea.'

In PE, children enjoyed using bigger apparatus to produce sequences including rolls, jumps, balances and travelling in different ways.

Children have started to learn about pirates in Geography by learning the names of the seas and oceans and the continents that pirates would have sailed around.



## Year 1/2L

1 and 2 L have had a busy few weeks and have really enjoyed some new topics we have started. We have had a tea party with a tiger in English, played maths games to secure our 2-digit place value knowledge and looked on Google Earth to name different countries and oceans. For sports enrichment, we played basketball games and improved our dribbling skills.



## Year 1/2R

We have had a super couple of weeks in Y1/2R! We started off with a lovely tea party, which a very cheeky tiger invited himself along to! This introduced our new text in English, which has led to children creating some brilliant pieces of descriptive writing! In History, we (hesitatingly) welcomed some Victorian teaching and we explored some ways in which children used to experience school in the Victorian era – they all voted that they prefer their current way of schooling! We learned about an important man, Samuel Wilderspin, who made some positive changes to the way children were taught and we thought about what we're thankful to him for. We are all looking forward to a break over half term, but we can't wait for all of the lovely activities we have planned for when we return!



## Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at our art project of prehistoric pots this week. We first experimented with different techniques, including rolling coils, using slip, making a pinch pot and joining clay. We then delved deeply into the style and use of pattern on Bell Beaker pottery. The children then practised making Bell Beaker-style patterns on clay slabs by imprinting a range of materials onto them. They will be making a final piece on our prehistoric day (6<sup>th</sup> November), when parents are invited to come and take part from 2pm. Please see the event on class dojo for further details.

In our English lessons, we are reading and writing about the story Charlotte's Web. The children are building up the skills to write a diary entry in the role of the main character Wilbur. They have been practising writing to entertain by recounting experiences and describing feelings.



## Year 4

Year 4 were busy again this week enjoying their busy schedule of lessons. In science, we enjoyed using a range of musical instruments to explore sound. The high volume meant an outdoor investigation worked best. Basketball proved to be very popular and highly competitive for the class. The children were able to put into practice many of the ball skills learnt in P.E. lessons.

We have ended this half term on a high with a massive DOJO total score of over 1,500. The class celebrated with several rewards including an in-class 'slipper' day. Reaching for the stars and using our class and Golden Rules to help guide them has resulted in an amazing half term of success and achievement. Well done everyone and keep it up! Have an amazing break and remember to keep reading every day, learn spellings and practise those times tables.

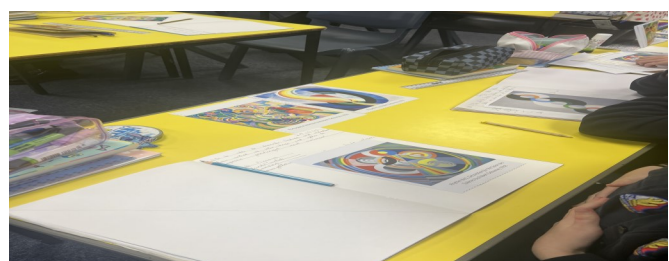
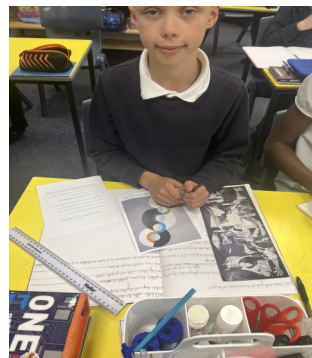


## Year 5

Year 5 have had a fun and busy two weeks! We have finished reading *Private Peaceful* and have started a new book, *Goodnight Mister Tom*, which links to our history topic. In science, we have been learning about levers and pulleys, discovering how they help us move and lift things more easily. We have also begun learning about World War 2, asking great questions and showing lots of interest in what life was like during that time. One of the highlights was a basketball enrichment session yesterday, where everyone enjoyed learning new skills and working as a team. The children have shown great enthusiasm in all subjects and are making good progress. It's been a great half term!

## Year 6

Over the past two weeks, Y6 have been working exceptionally hard in every lesson. They have begun to study the genre of a character description, thinking about the main characters we have met in our class book: *War Horse*. As well as this, we have produced mini information texts in history, which outline the end of WW1 and how this came to be. We are further exploring Abstract art and have investigated Orphism this week, producing some really creative and interesting pieces. We're definitely ready for a half term break but I'm looking forward to us coming back refreshed and ready for the Christmas term!



### Leo's Den

Over the last two weeks the children in Leo's Den have been taking every opportunity to be outside playing before the nights draw in. When they have been inside the provision the children have been making Halloween decorations, their favourite one being the tissue ghosts.



### Forest Schools

What an amazing time the Nursery and Reception children have had taking part in Forest schools this half term. Activities have included learning about minibeasts and where they might live, going on a mini-beast hunt which the children really enjoyed and were engaged throughout. They learnt to take care of nature and all the creatures that live in the Forest School. Another activity that encouraged the children to care for the environment was litter picking on the site. The children had to take turns using the litter pickers. Hand and eye coordination was needed to manipulate the picker. The messiest activity the children took part in was mud painting. Wow! They did get mucky, but had great fun. They painted a picture of themselves or their family using various size paintbrushes, soil and a syringe to wet the soil. Some children went on to paint a tree.

Forest School gives every child the opportunity to be engaged in various activities using all their senses. The children enjoyed exploring the site with their friends, doing roly polys down the bank, pushing tyres up the bank and letting the tyres roll back down. They played hide and seek and made up their own games with each other.





# Diary Dates

## AUTUMN TERM

Please note dates are subject to change, we will always notify you as soon as we can if this happens.

<b>October 2025</b>	
<b>Mon 27th to Fri 31st</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
<b>November 2025</b>	
Monday 3rd November	School reopens for pupils
Monday 3rd November	Y1/2 Families Workshops - curriculum link, 2pm
Tuesday 4th November	Y1/Y2 Pirate WOW Day!
Tuesday 4th November	Y5/6 Families workshops - curriculum link, 2pm
Thursday 6th November	Y3/4 Families workshops - curriculum link, 2pm
Monday 10th November	Odd socks day as part of Anti-Bullying Week - waer add socks with your uniform/PE kit
Monday 10th November	Parents' evening from 3.45pm
Tuesday 11th November	Remembrance Day - poppies will be on sale
Tuesday 11th November	Parents' evening from 3.45pm
Tues 11th to Friday 14th Nov	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 14th November	Children in Need - £1 donation for charity on ParentPay - wear something yellow or spotty
Monday 17th November	Open Afternoon for families of children starting in Reception September 2026 1.30pm, 2pm and 2.30pm - please book your slot at the school office
Tues 18th, to Fri 21st Nov	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 19th November	PTA meeting, Starbucks, The Hough Retail Park
Friday 21st November	Own Clothes Day - bring in an item for the Christmas Hampers
Friday 28th November	Christmas Light Switch On 3.30pm - 4pm
<b>December 2025</b>	
Wednesday 3rd December	EYFS Educational Visit - Please make your payment on ParentPay
Thursday 4th December	School Disco
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Lunch in School - wear your Christmas jumper or something festive
Thursday 11th December	Sports Enrichment - orienteering PE kit for all pupils
Friday 12th December	9.00am - Celebration Assembly Families will be contacted the week before if their child has been chosen for an award
Monday 15th December	9.30am - Nur/Rec Christmas Play      2.00pm - Y1/2 Christmas Play
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30 am –Y1/2 Christmas Play                      2:00 pm – Nur/Rec Christmas Play
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Services for Key Stage 2 at: 9.00 for Y5/6 and 10:00 am for Y3/4 - Parents Wel- come
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Party Day – children to wear party clothes to school
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of term - <b>School closes 1pm</b>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec to Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>School closed Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>	
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET Day – School closed to pupils</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens to pupils