



Leonard's Life



Where everyone is valued and together we reach for the stars.

Issue: 9

Friday 7th November 2025

A note from Miss Phillips.....

We have had a packed week back in school! Thank you to everyone who has joined our curriculum workshops - feedback has been really positive about these.

Our Year 1/2 children looked fantastic in their pirate attire on Tuesday and on Thursday Year 3/4 enjoyed a pre-historic day in the forest school.

Next week children are invited to wear odd socks on Monday as we mark Anti-Bullying Week. Friday is Children in Need and children can wear something yellow or spotty - please make your donation directly to the charity.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for parents' evening on Monday and Tuesday. Appointments will be held in the hall.



School AWARDS

w/c: 03/11/25	Star of the Week	Pride Award
Year N/R	Dottie	Tobias
Year R	Ella-Rose	Teddy
Year 1/2H	Bilal	Benji
Year 1/2L	Eve	Pip
Year 1/2R	Emmie	Tommy
Year 3	Isaac	Isla-Rona
Year 4	Harri	Emilia
Year 5	Jamie	Jacob C
Year 6	Ashton	Rebecca

Well done everyone!

Odd Socks Day

We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Monday 10th November 2025



NON-UNIFORM DAY

Friday 14th November 2025

£1

MINIMUM DONATION

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED





Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Week: 03/11/25	
Class	Attendance %
Rec	95.2
Y1/2H	98.3
Y1/2L	95.0
Y1/2R	97.5
Y3	95.5
Y4	97.0
Y5	94.5
Y6	94.7

Well done to **Year 1/2H**.

Look out for your Class DoJo points!



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are asking for your support in talking to the young people in your life about the dangers of carrying a knife or blade. While carrying a knife is not common — statistics show that 99% of young people aged 10 to 29 do not carry one — those who do put themselves and others at serious risk.

As part of the #DitchTheBlade multi-agency campaign, we want to make it clear that carrying a knife is never acceptable. Over the coming weeks, you may see increased coverage as we raise awareness of the risks and consequences of knife crime through education and community engagement.

Some young people carry a knife out of fear, believing it will keep them safe. In reality, it often increases their risk, as the weapon can be turned against them. Beyond the threat of serious injury, being caught with a knife can result in a criminal record, which can affect education, career prospects, and future opportunities. The impact of knife crime is far-reaching, affecting families, friends, and the wider community. This is why we are reaching out for your support.

It is also important to understand that any child, from any background, may feel pressured to carry a knife. If you are concerned about your child, or any young person you know, advice, real-life experiences, and links to support organisations are available on the Staffordshire Police website: www.staffordshire.police.uk/ditchtheblade

The overwhelming majority of young people will never carry a knife or be affected by knife crime. However, by openly addressing this issue and encouraging conversations at home, we can work together to ensure young people stay safe. With your support, we can collectively make a real difference.

Chief Insp David Barrow

Commander
Stoke South Local Policing Team

A safe and confident Staffordshire



Was your child born between
1st September 2021 and
31st 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
From 1st November 2025

The closing date for applications is 15th 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 17th November (1.30pm - 3.30pm)

Please contact the school office to book a place.

Email: office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk
or telephone 01785 334960

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.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE
Fortnite is free to play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetics, skins, and battle passes. Children can feel pressure to spend money on 'loot boxes' – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetics, skins, and battle passes. Children can feel pressure to spend money on 'loot boxes' – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
There's no denying that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the games. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood. Both in mini-games and emotes, skins and other weapons often feel and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Wither and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, game modes, cosmetics, and cinematic. Ongoing updates can increase excitement and generate discussion as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular rewards help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION
Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play times with their friends for supervision and safety. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explore potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or PC. This can be a great opportunity for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while ensuring they're enjoying the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into impulse purchases. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.


BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger players – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iGAM, TechAdvisor, and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

✕ @wake_up_weds | /www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025



House of Bread is proud to present
A Certificate of Appreciation to
St Leonard's Primary School

For their generous donations to House of Bread so that we can continue to help the homeless and most vulnerable in our communities.

William Morris

William Morris - Director

HOUSE
BREAD

To the staff and pupils at St Leonard's School,

Thank you very much for your very generous Harvest Festival donations to House of Bread. It is the support of organisations such as yourselves which means that we are able to continue to help the homeless and most vulnerable in our communities.

As you will be aware this is a particularly difficult time for everyone and especially the vulnerable in our society. The cost of living crisis is proving to be very challenging. Our work continues to expand as we try to help more and more people who may have just about managed in the past but are now starting to struggle.

Each month we email out a House of Bread Newsletter. This is a great way of keeping up to date with what we are up to, any new initiatives you might be interested in and has details of fundraising events that you might like to support. Please let us have your email address if you would like to be included in this.

If you would like to donate either as a one-off or on a monthly basis please have a look at the local-giving link at the bottom of the email.

Would you, or any of your friends, be interested in volunteering with us? We have a number of different ways in which you could help. You might help to prepare and serve food in Cafe 43, you could be involved in putting food bags together at our Food Bank unit, we have a tin collection team who collect and distribute our Charity Money collection boxes, or, if you are only available at weekends, then our pop-up cafe held at Church Lane Church, Stafford on the second Saturday of each month. Please get in touch with us if you'd like further information or an informal chat about how we could work together.

Once again thank you for thinking of The House of Bread.

With very best wishes,

Judy Palmer

Administrator House of Bread.



St Leonard's PTFA



Winter Wonderland Festival



There's plenty of ways to get involved & raise money for our school this Christmas...

❄️ **Mufti Day** – Fri 21 Nov in return for items for our Festive Raffle

❄️ Join us for our **Christmas Light Switch On** – Fri 28 Nov 3.30pm – 4.00pm Enjoy carols & songs led by the choir with hot chocolate & biscuits – Free

❄️ Join us for our **Festive Disco** Thu 04 Dec – Tickets £3.50

❄️ Decorate a Christmas Bauble competition £1.00 per entry

❄️ Name & win **Santa's Christmas teddy Competition** £1.00 per entry

❄️ Enter our **Festive Hamper Raffle** – £1.00 per ticket

See ParentPay for details



EMAIL PTFA@ST-LEONARDS-STAFFORD.STAFFS.SCH.UK
FACEBOOK [@STLEONARDSSTAFFORDPTFA](https://www.facebook.com/STLEONARDSSTAFFORDPTFA)



ST. LEONARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LEO'S NURSERY

Fairway
Stafford
ST16 3TW

Headteacher: Mrs Phillips
Telephone: 01785 334960
Email: headteacher@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk
Website: www.st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk



Get into the Festive Spirit with our Winter Wonderland Festival of Events!

Dear Parents,

IT'S BACK!!!! Yes Christmas is nearly here and so is our **Winter Wonderland Festival**, returning for the fourth consecutive year, to help us get into the festive spirit and earn some money for the school.

We're planning our **Winter Wonderland Festival of events** from **Friday 21 November** until the end of term on **Friday 19 December**. Your children will be able to take part in a number of events including our **Festive Winter Disco**.

They'll be a **Mufti Day** at school where children can wear their own clothes on **Friday 21 November** in return for bringing **In Items for Christmas Hampers** – it could be anything from a box of mince pies, to a Christmas cake, a chocolate Santa or a bottle of wine, whatever you can afford to give will be gratefully received and used to create our **Raffle Hampers...**

Which we'll be awarding to the winners at the **Christmas Service and Plays** that are taking place from **Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 December** – it costs **£1** per entry to be in with a chance to win a lovely **Christmas Hamper**, packed full of goodies, to help you celebrate in style. Please visit **ParentPay** if you would like to buy a ticket – names will go into a hat and the draw for each hamper will happen at the end of each of the events.

If your children are creative there's the chance for them to design their own **Christmas Bauble for our Competition** – simply **sign up and pay your £1 entry on ParentPay** and we'll send you a bauble home for them to decorate. They need to be **returned to school by Thursday 27 November** for the class teachers to choose a winner and receive their prize – and then of course they'll make their way onto the school's Christmas tree in time for...

Our **first ever Christmas Light Switch On** event after school on **Friday 28 November** when the school choir will lead us in a number of carols and festive songs before the tree is officially lit up. This free activity will run from **3.30pm – 4.00pm** and there'll be **hot chocolate and biscuits** to enjoy too!

Our **Festive Winter Discos** will be returning on **Thursday 04 December** for **EYFS & KS1 3.30pm – 4.30pm** and **KS2 4.45pm - 5.45pm**. Tickets cost **£3.50** per child and are available via **ParentPay**. We'd also love for a handful of parents to help with the discos and join in with the Christmas fun. Please see the separate letter which will be going out about how you can get involved.

And of course, there will be the children's favourite - 'Guess the name of Santa's teddy bear' competition. Year 6 will be introducing our jolly Christmas teddy to all the classes and your children are welcome to guess his/her name, **£1** per go, again, payable via **ParentPay**. The winner will be **announced on the final day on term**.

We appreciate that money is tight this year, but we very much hope that you take part in as many of these fundraising activities as you possibly can, as without your support, school events and resources for 2026 that are usually funded by the PTFA, may not be able to occur.

If you have any fundraising ideas that you could share, or you'd like to get involved please drop us an email, speak to a member of staff, or contact us via our **Facebook page**.

Thanks in advance for your support and here's to a happy festive period!
Everyone at the PTFA x

PTFA@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk | Facebook [@stleonardsstaffordptfa](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsstaffordptfa)

STIKINS[®] NAME LABELS

Literally hundreds of pounds worth of unclaimed, unnamed clothing goes to the charity shop at the end of every term. Naming your child's clothing can really save you money! Simply purchase your name labels from Stikins (R) and you will not only save money, but you'll also help raise funds for the school. Buy the easy to apply labels from the link below and when prompted add in the school fundraising code: **20390** - St Leonard's will then earn 30% commission!
<https://www.stikins.co.uk/name-labels/>



Department
for Education



Staffordshire
County Council

HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES
AND FOOD

HAF^{fun} this winter

Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*. Paid places also available.

SCAN ME!



staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)
Winter 2025

Overview

Let's HAF fun this Winter!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme enables local authorities in England to deliver inclusive, enriching activities including a hot meal over the school holidays. Eligible children and young people can book up to four free places throughout the winter holidays.

The Staffordshire HAF programme will run at various locations in local areas starting from **Monday 22 December 2025 until Friday 2nd January 2026**. It's funded for children and young people aged 5 – 16 years who receive benefit related free school meals. For a full overview, please [watch this video](#).

How do parents/carers book?

All eligible parents and carers will receive an email or letter from Staffordshire County Council containing their child's individual HAF code.

Schools and Family Hubs will also have access to these codes and can help share booking details with eligible families.

Booking steps

1. **Browse activities in advance:** Activities will be visible on our website before bookings open. Visit: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities Listings will go live from Wednesday 5th November at 4pm and will be updated throughout November.
2. **Book online:** When bookings open, a 'Book Now' button will appear on the HAF booking page of the county council website.
3. **Create an account:** Parents/carers will need to register an account via the booking platform on the website.
4. **Have your HAF code ready:** They will need their child's HAF code to book their chosen activities.

Bookings officially open on Monday 10th November at 4pm.

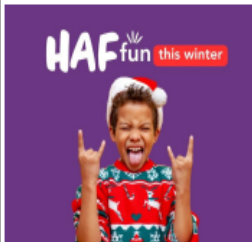
To avoid disappointment, parents/carers should book as soon as possible at:

Follow our Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts where we will be promoting our activities in action over the Winter.

[Facebook](#)
[TikTok](#)
[Instagram](#)

Search #HAF2025 on our channels to find our posts and give them a share!

If you would like to post on your own channels, there's some suggested wording and our photo below that you're welcome to use.

Social post suggestion	
Facebook and Instagram	Image
<p>#HAF2025 HAF fun this Winter</p> <p>If your child is aged 5-16 years and eligible for a funded place on the HAF programme, they will receive an email or letter from Staffordshire County Council and a letter from their school with a HAF code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Booking opens on Monday 10th November at 4pm✔ Activities run from Monday 22 December 2025 until Friday 2nd January 2026✔ Quote your HAF code to get a free place <p>The perfect opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy healthy meals and have lots of fun this winter</p> <p>If your child is not eligible for a free place but would like to attend, get in touch. Many of our providers offer paid places, too!</p> <p>Visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities</p>	

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities or scan the QR code on their letter from school.

HAF Youth

A range of activities exclusively for young people aged 11 to 16 who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals are also available on our HAF programme. Full details and booking information are available on the [Staffordshire County Council website](#).

Have your say – Youth feedback form

If you work with teenagers in Staffordshire, we would also like your help in promoting our new feedback form to improve our programme. Please do share the information below where possible.

Teenagers of Staffordshire - we want to hear from you!

Tell us your interests by filling out our quick feedback form. Your views will help shape and improve the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – making sure the activities offered are fun, relevant and right for you.

Your feedback will directly influence the types of teenage activities we offer – so this is your chance to make a difference. [Submit your feedback](#)

FAQs

There's a child that would benefit from the programme but is not eligible for free school meals, how can they benefit from a funded place?

Some children can be referred via professionals to access a HAF place by requesting a professional referral form from our team. Please email: StaffordshireHAF@staffordshire.gov.uk

HAF codes issued on a referral basis are valid for Easter, Summer and Winter 2025.

Can a family pay for their child to attend HAF?

Some of the holiday clubs will also have places that can be paid for. Please check our booking platform to see if there are any paid for places available for your chosen activity.

How can you support families to access HAF?

You will see lots of activity on the county council's social media pages and communications channels. Please share as many posts as you can with your teams/partners to spread the word as far as possible to help as many children have a fantastic time this winter.

Digital advertising screens (attached with email)

Digital advertising screens can be displayed on TV screens.

The screens are attached to the email, and it would be great if you could start advertising this week until the end of the winter holidays.

Posters to print (attached with email)

I have also attached some print-ready posters if you are able to display these where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please email danielle.taylor2@staffordshire.gov.uk

Thank you!

The
ELSA
Study



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Screening children for type 1 diabetes



**Would you like to get your child
screened for type 1 diabetes in the
ELSA diabetes research study?**

**We are screening children, aged 3-13 years,
at a clinic near you:**

Date: 25/11/2025

Time: 09:30

Location: St Leonard's

Register here: www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk

Contact us: research@mpft.nhs.uk

Scan for info



Diary Dates

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

NOVEMBER 2025	
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week – wear odd socks with your uniform/PE kit
Monday 10 th November	Parents’ evening from 3.45pm
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day – poppies will be on sale
Tuesday 11 th November	Parents’ evening from 3.45pm
Tues 11th, Thurs 13th and Fri 14th Nov	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – £1 donation for charity on ParentPay - wear something yellow or spotty
Monday 17 th November	Open Afternoon for families of children starting in Reception in September 2025. 1:30 – 3:30pm - Please book your slot with the office.
Tues 18th, Thurs 20th, Fri 21st Nov	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 21st November	Own Clothes Day - in return for items for our Festive Raffle
Friday 28th November	Christmas light switch on - 3.30pm - 4.00pm Enjoy carols and songs led by the choir, with hot chocolate and biscuits
DECEMBER 2025	
Thursday 4th December	Festive Disco - EYFS and KS1 3.30PM - 4.30pm KS2 4.45PM - 5.45PM
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch in school - Wear your Christmas Jumper or something Festive!
Thursday 11 th December	Sports Enrichment – orienteering PE kit for all pupils
Friday 12 th December	9:00 am – Celebration Assembly Families will be contacted the week before if their child has been chosen for an award
Monday 15 th December	9:30 am – Nur/Rec Christmas Play 2:00 pm – Y1/2 Christmas Play
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30 am –Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:00 pm – Nur/Rec Christmas Play
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Services for Key Stage 2 at: 9.00 for Y5/6 and 10:00 am for Y3/4 - Parents Welcome
Thursday 18 th December	Party Day – children to wear party clothes to school
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of term - School closes 1pm
Mon 22nd Dec to Fri 2nd Jan	School closed
JANUARY 2026	
Monday 5th January	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th January	School reopens to pupils