



# Leonard's Life



Issue: 16

Friday 16th January 2026

## A note from Miss Phillips.....

We have very much enjoyed our first full week back in school!

I always enjoy seeing the children learning in classes and it has been lovely to walk around this week and see how settled and purposeful the learning is. From Nursery Rhymes and Traditional Tales, to some more challenging texts in Key Stage 2, there is lots of new learning taking place.

Many parents often ask about how they can support their child's learning at home. Our top answer is always through reading. Whether this is reading a book to your child, or hearing them read, it all supports their development. Being a confident reader helps children access all areas of the curriculum - your child's class teacher would be more than happy to make some recommendations if you would like. Next week, there is much to look forward to. Our Year 1 and 2 children are all taking part in Forest School this half-term; we are very excited to hear how they get on with this. They will no doubt have a fantastic time.

Have a great weekend!



w/c: 12/01/26	Star of the Week	Pride Award
Year N/R	Henry	Arinzay
Year R	Zuzanna	Lilia
Year 1/2H	Inaaya	River
Year 1/2L	Tyler	Iffat
Year 1/2R	Jasper	Elliot
Year 3	Timi	Margot G
Year 4	Emilia	Isla G
Year 5	Jacob C	Mason
Year 6	Sophie	Arlo

Well done everyone!

## Lunch Price Increase.

We would like to make parents aware that from **1st April 2026**, the price of a standard primary school meal will increase to **£3.25**.



## Useful helplines and websites

**Childnet:** Provides [online information](#) for parents around supporting children with gaming at different ages. Parents can [download their Family Agreement template](#) and find tips on using it with their family.

**The Mix:** Offers online information as well as helpline support to under-25s about anything that's troubling them. Free [Get support](#) - discussion boards, support groups, text support and counselling is available.

**Childline:** If you're under 19 you can confidentially call, chat online or email about any problem big or small.

[Sign up](#) for a free Childline locker (real name or email address not needed) to use their [free 1-2-1 counsellor chat](#) and email support service.

[Can provide a BSL interpreter](#) if you are deaf or hearing-impaired.

Hosts [online message boards](#) where you can share your experiences, have fun and get support from other young people in similar situations.

Opening times: 24/7 [0800 11 11](#)

**Tellmi:** A free app for teenagers (11+) providing resources and a fully moderated community where you can share your problems, get support, and help other people too.

Can be downloaded from Staffordshire Health App finder (info below) or google play or app store

**Staffordshire Health App finder** has a range of trusted, clinically-reviewed apps to address a variety of mental health needs—whether it's managing anxiety, building resilience, or coping with everyday stress.

Click the link [Staffordshire health app finder](#) or scan the QR code



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

	Week: 12/01/26
Class	Attendance %
Rec	93.9
<b>Y1/2H</b>	<b>96.8</b>
Y1/2L	95.6
Y1/2R	95.3
Y3	96.0
Y4	95.9
Y5	95.1
Y6	92.9

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

Look out for your Class DoJo points!

### Board Games and Jigsaws for Calm Club.

In Calm club we are looking for any used board games and jigsaws 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 and jigsaws 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!!



Staffordshire  
County Council

## Mental health support for children and young people

Follow the **SAFE** steps for mental health support to find the right help at the right time.

**S**

### Self help

Advice and signposting to wellbeing activities and digital tools

**A**

### Ask for advice and help

Young people's wellbeing services and support

**F**

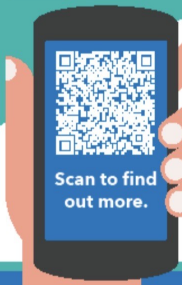
### Fast specialist support

Specialist mental health support for young people

**E**

### Emergency services

Mental health crisis and urgent help



Scan to find out more.

[staffordshire.gov.uk/imhere](http://staffordshire.gov.uk/imhere)

# Need support with

# alcohol and drugs?

## We're here to help!

### Our service is...

- Free
- Confidential
- Easy to access
- Non-judgemental



#### CONTACT US

@ STaRSYP@mpft.nhs.uk

01785 241 393

www.staffstars.org/yp



STaRS is provided by <sup>NHS</sup>Inclusion, a specialist service of Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT), in partnership with Staffordshire County Council. Find out more at [www.inclusion.org](http://www.inclusion.org).



*Free drop-in sessions for  
parents and carers of children  
and young people with special  
educational needs*

Staffordshire SENDIASS is a confidential, impartial,  
free service for parents  
and carers of children and young people (0 -25)  
with special educational needs and disabilities,  
and also for children and young people (0-25) with  
special educational needs and disabilities.

We provide Information,  
Advice and Support covering education, health  
and social care issues.

**Stafford Family Hub**

**Faraday Road**

**Wednesday, 28th January 2026**

**1-3pm**

No need to book, just call in  
[sfps@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sfps@staffordshire.gov.uk) 01785 356921

## Nursery

Nursery have had a super first two weeks back in school, we have welcomed some new friends and have been eager to begin learning again.

Last week the children thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the snow, and made some super observations whilst outside. They continued this learning back in the classroom discussing why it snows and predicting other signs of winter we may see.

This week children have enjoyed exploring the outdoor area, working really well as a team to build tricky trails and moving in different ways.

In Phonics we have recapped 'S, A, T and P' and focused on new sounds 'l and N', our Rising 3 children have focused on joining in with different nursery rhymes and repeated phrases in stories.



## Reception

This week in Reception we have started our new topic for this term 'Let's Imagine'.

Last week we focused on the story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and this week we have moved onto 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have had fun retelling both stories using puppets and masks to get into character. We enjoyed designing and decorating our own gingerbread men in the creative area and identifying shapes in the Maths area.

For our Maths adult led task this week we investigated capacity, focusing on the language we use and had lots of fun filling up cups with different amounts.

## Year 1/2H

Happy New Year and welcome back. Year 1/2H have settled back into routines quickly. They have enjoyed reading their new traditional story Jack and the Beanstalk in English. Children have been learning to use co-ordinating conjunctions to write clear sentences and compound sentences.

In Computing, children learnt about algorithms. They used multi-link cubes to give step by step instructions for a partner to follow.

In History, children have revisited key learning about significant aviators in the past such as Otto Lilienthal and Amelia Earhart. They have shown lots of enjoyment in History, learning about significant aviators.

In Maths, children have continued to add and subtract TO crossing a ten. Children have used practical apparatus to help learn the new steps.



## Year 1/2L

Year 1/2L have really enjoyed reading Jack and the Beanstalk this week for English. They have retold the story using conjunctions and adjectives. They have also enjoyed learning about their senses in science and have carried out experiments exploring their sight and touch. In computing, they have used their knowledge of algorithms to construct different structures using cubes with a partner.

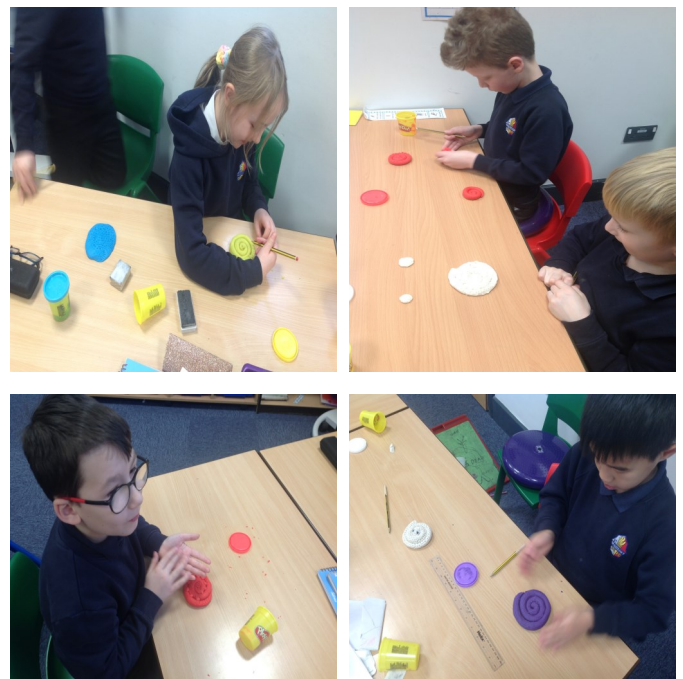


## Year 1/2R

After a strange, cold and snowy start to the new term last week, we have settled right back in and there has been lots of fun and learning going on! In English, the children are in the process of re-telling the story, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and I have been so impressed with their writing so far. The children have been learning how to add and subtract two, two-digit numbers using the column method in Maths, which has required lots of perseverance! But we are very proud of the children for how well they have taken this on. We've had lots of fun in Science where we have been investigating our senses, how they work and what impacts them. Well done for a super first couple of weeks back, 1/2R!

## Year 3

Year 3 have settled back in superbly after the Christmas break. We enjoyed our first lesson back at swimming this week and all of the children did extremely well. The children have enjoyed reading our new class story 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We are building up our skills in descriptive reading to complete a character description of the Iron Man himself. In Maths, we have started our learning on length and perimeter. The children have been measuring and comparing lengths in mm, cm and m. We have continued our topic of 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles'. We learned how fossils are formed over time and about a very significant fossil hunter called Mary Anning. In art, the children have been exploring ammonites. After studying their shape, pattern and form, the children made their own ammonite sculpture.



## Year 4

Year 4 are off to a flying start this term with a very busy timetable. In science we researched the temperature in degrees Celsius at which materials change state, exploring melting points. We learnt why we use a standard unit when measuring temperature using a range of equipment. Observing the changes to chocolate from a solid to liquid proved to be very popular.

In geography, we discovered more about the work of a palaeontologist, including how fossils are formed and have been discovered on the Jurassic coast.

In English, we are enjoying our new book for this term, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, by Michael Morpurgo. This is a great opportunity for us to be transported to warmer and more exotic places during these cold winter days. There is much to learn in our reading lessons including plenty of new and exciting vocabulary.

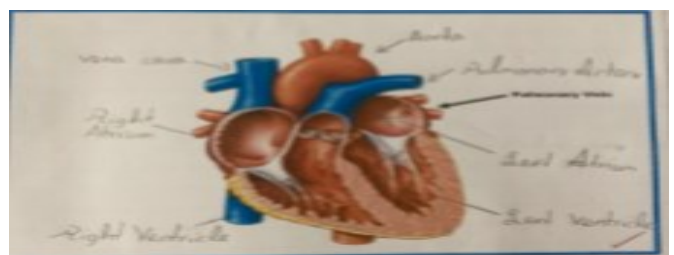


## Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to 2026! The children returned full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to learn. We are continuing our topic Frozen Kingdoms, which has sparked lots of curiosity. In English, we've started reading *Race to the Frozen North* by Catherine Johnson. The class is captivated by the story of Matthew Henson, the first man to reach the North Pole in 1909 and we've enjoyed discussing his courage and determination. In Maths, we've begun a new unit on long multiplication, practising strategies to tackle larger numbers with growing confidence. PE has been full of teamwork and fun as we start tag rugby and gymnastics, developing coordination and agility. It's been a busy and exciting two weeks and we're looking forward to more adventures in our learning as the term continues!

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the Spring Term! In Science, the children have begun an exciting new unit on the circulatory system, learning how blood travels around the body and exploring the different parts of the heart. In Geography, they discovered the wonders of polar day and polar night, imagining what life would be like with up to 180 days of darkness. They found that this unusual time of year can be quite magical, with the Northern Lights visible and families spending more time together indoors. In Maths, the children have continued their work on fractions and are now beginning to add and subtract them — a challenging step, but one they are tackling with great perseverance.



### Leo's Den

The children in Leo's Den have had a great start back after the Christmas holidays. They have taken part in an art activity 'Magic Painting', creating a wintry scene using a white wax crayon and watercolour paint. They loved to see the image appear like magic.



# 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>January 2026</b>	
Monday 26th January	Y1/2 Curriculum Showcase - Families invited to view work in books 3.00pm-3.30pm
Tuesday 27th January	Y3/4 Curriculum Showcase - Families invited to view work in books 3.00pm-3.30pm
Thursday 29th January	Y5/6 Curriculum Showcase - Families invited to view work in books 3.00pm-3.30pm
<b>FEBRUARY 2026</b>	
Monday 2nd February	Early Years Families invited in for Stay and Play sessions 9.15-10.15am Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 3rd February	Governor's Meeting 4.15pm
Thursday 12th February	Sports Enrichment - Glow in the dark dodgeball PE Kit for all pupils
Friday 13th February	9.00am - Celebration Assembly. Families will be contacted the week before if their child has won an award.  School Closes - last day of half term
Mon 16th - Fri 20th February	School closed - Half Term
Monday 23rd February	School re-opens for all children
Tuesday 24th - Tuesday 3rd March	Book Fair in school
<b>MARCH 2026</b>	
Wednesday 4th March	Reading Café - Families invited - 9.15-10.15am Y5/6 and 2.30-3.15pm Nursery/Reception
Thursday 5th March	<b>WORLD BOOK DAY</b>  Reading Café - Families invited - 9.15-10.15am Y3/4 and 2.30-3.15pm Y1/2
Tuesday 17th March	Governor's Meeting 4.15pm
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief - wear something red non uniform - £1 donation for charity
Monday 23rd	Parent's evening from 3.45pm
Tuesday 24th	Parent's evening from 3.45pm
Thursday 26th March	Sports Enrichment - Handball PE Kit for all pupils
Friday 27th March	Easter Celebration Assembly - 9.15am Y4/5/6, 10.00am Y1/2/3 and 11.00am in class Nursery and Reception. Families will be contacted the week before if their child has been chose for an award
Friday 27th March	Last Day of Term - <b>School closes at 1pm</b>
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
<b>APRIL 2026</b>	
Monday 13th April	INSET DAY - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 14th April	School reopens for all children