



St Leonard's R.C. Primary School

Tunstall Village Road

Silksworth

Sunderland

SR3 2BB

Tel: 0191 5210300

Email: office@stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Website: www.stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Robertson

10th November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Mr Nick Conway, School Improvement Lead for the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, wrote to you last week regarding an update of the staffing at St Leonard's, including my position within the school. I am delighted to have taken on the role as Acting Head Teacher of St Leonard's for the next few weeks in Mrs Robertson's absence.

I thought I would take this opportunity to provide you with an update from my time at St Leonard's so far and advise of some changes I have implemented.

Over the past few weeks, I have carried out observations of the whole school learning environment and the delivery of teaching in different year groups. I am working closely with the teaching staff to develop and implement a curriculum that is challenging and progressive across all subjects to ensure that the quality of children's learning and work improves; ensuring every child always works to the best they can.

We are looking to improve the quality of learning environments by improving the quality of the displays around school. Over the coming months, the school will be fully repainted and outdoor areas cleared and repaired to ensure your child's school reflects the high expectations we have for every child at St Leonard's.

Punctuality and Attendance

Most of our children have excellent attendance. They come in every day, they are on time and work hard. A minority of pupil's attendance is not good enough. We are going to target to improve this. School drop off is between 8.45 – 8.55 am, by which time all children must be in their classroom. All children who achieve 100% attendance and punctuality will be rewarded by having their names added to a weekly draw, with a certificate and prize awarded to the child who is picked. In addition to this, every child who has 100% attendance across the term will be celebrated with a certificate sent home.

High expectations and improving standards of work

Regularly, you will hear me say these words because these are the foundations upon which we are going to make St Leonard's great. The staff are working hard at ensuring we develop our consistency of approach, especially in the way the pupils present their work. We now insist on pupils always doing their best and their work reflecting these high expectations. At St Leonard's we want our children to enjoy their learning and recognise that empowering pupils to be actively involved in their learning will promote a greater sense of pride and achievement. Finally, we will be involving you in your children's learning and will welcome your feedback around this matter – thank you for the positive comments that school has received to date recognising this.



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Behaviour

The behaviour of virtually every child is good, they are hard-working, polite and make the most of their many talents. Over the coming weeks you will see rewards for these children. They will receive a sticker or certificate if they achieve something that contributes towards our new 'Good to be Green' system; you may have heard your child talking about staying on the green each day. This means if they stay on the green each day for a half term, they will get a class reward. I want to reward the many great children of St Leonard's. When a child's behaviour or attitude to their learning is identified as outstanding, they may be chosen as the class Shining Star for that week and celebrated in the weekly assembly.

Sanctions

We are also establishing tougher sanctions for the small minority of children who do not behave as they need to. This will involve having a warning (you may have heard children have been moved to amber or red). This means they will start missing parts of their social time, such as break-times or lunchtimes. If they continue to behave inappropriately, we will involve their parents quickly. We will not tolerate poor behaviour. As it is a tiny minority of pupils who do not behave as well as they must, I know we will quickly improve behaviour which isn't appropriate.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to the children and staff at St Leonard's for the lovely, warm welcome I have received, and I look forward to getting to know them further.

Kind regards,

D Dunn

Dionne Dunn

Acting Head Teacher