



St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter no. 1

30th November, 2021

Dear parents and carers,

What a weekend we have just encountered! I hope you are all well and didn't experience too much damage as a result of Storm Arwen. This weekend was a stark reminder to us all that winter is well and truly on its way and we need to be prepared. With this in mind, I would like to remind you to ensure that your child comes to school with a suitable sensible, plain and inexpensive coat at all times – labelled with the child's name please – and I draw your attention to our School Uniform Policy regarding the wearing of suitable outdoor footwear to and from School that can be worn during outdoor play and easily changed into indoor footwear when in class to ensure comfort.

During these colder months, we continue to take precautionary steps to help keep pupils and staff as safe as possible during the ongoing risks presented by coronavirus. One of the measures in place is the ventilation of classrooms via open windows. Obviously, we will monitor the temperature in all indoor areas but do ask that your child wears additional layers under their school uniform where possible.

On the subject of school uniform, I would like to remind you that the wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school, including small, clear stud ear-rings. Please ensure that your child removes all jewellery before coming to school to help ensure their health and safety at all times.

Homework

On Friday, your child will have come home with their homework. We have changed how homework is set for different year groups and you will receive a letter today explaining the changes and what homework your child should expect on a weekly basis.

Dates for the rest of term

With the need to continue with restrictions in school at this time and that includes visits in school. As a result, many of our Christmas celebrations will now be recorded and shared via You Tube. I appreciate this is very disappointing for yourselves and all of our staff, but having seen recently how quickly the virus can spread, I am sure you will agree with me that we have to take every precaution to enable everyone to have as healthy a Christmas as possible. Christmas jumper day, Christmas parties and Christmas lunch will still go ahead and a list of these dates and arrangements will be shared on Friday 3rd December.

New arrivals

I would like to introduce you to Autumn and Beau. Autumn and Beau are labradoodles and experienced school dogs. They currently, and will continue to, work in my previous school to support pupils in a number of ways. However, I am keen to bring my school dogs to St Leonard's for the duration of my stay. The intention is they will have a 'trial' period in the office with me and Mrs Rose and, if they settle and there are not concerns from yourselves, they will begin to work with the children. Autumn and Beau have supported pupils who sometimes find school challenging, have 'listened' to children reading and have even cured children of their fear of animals – I am very proud of what they have achieved. I would be grateful if you have any concerns regarding the dogs being in school that you contact the office to share these as soon as possible.



Thank you

I wanted to finish this first newsletter with a genuine 'thank you' to you all for making me feel so welcome. I enjoy having the opportunity to speak with you on a morning outside or over the telephone, when you take time out of your day to contact school. I am grateful for your honesty in sharing your opinions about our school and look forward to having the opportunity to speak with more of you in the days and weeks to come.

Dionne Dunn

Acting Head Teacher