



## St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter no. 7

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### Dear parents and carers,

It was lovely to meet with some of you last week during our 'face to face' meeting in school, alongside senior leaders and members of our Trust. Thank you for your positive comments and for recognising that changes are happening; it is only with your support that this can continue. From the meeting, a couple of points were raised that I would like to revisit for those who were unable to attend.

*Improved communication:* the point was raised that communication between home and school is still not as strong as you would like. In response to this I have today shared a parent survey to capture your views. I would be grateful if as many of you as possible completed the short form to enable me to improve this area of ongoing concern. If you have any points to raise that have not been covered in the survey, please feel free to contact me via the school email. The survey will close on Wednesday and, once the responses have been analysed, I will share the outcomes with you all. Further surveys will follow to ensure I continue to gather your opinions on a range of different matters.

*Reading books in KS1:* Concerns around the lack of reading books being sent home was raised. As a school we agreed with this having been an issue and explained that we had been waiting for new books to arrive – which finally have! Therefore, you should see children's reading books being sent home weekly moving forward. Reading is to be a key focus in school and there are a number of exciting ways we intend to increase our children's love of reading. One of the ways we intend to achieve this is via a reading café. From next week, all children will have the opportunity to visit the **St Leonards Reading Cafe** where they will enjoy a warm chocolatey beverage as they read with an adult, in a small group or privately. Please encourage your children to drop in on Monday and Wednesday lunch times- all reader's welcome!

*School premises:* There are a number of projects being discussed around improving the appearance of our school. The first is regarding the outdoor areas that are overgrown or damaged. We have had confirmation that work will begin clearing the identified areas this half term. Also, the school is to have a phased 'face-lift', with walls painted, new carpets (where required) and new furniture; phase one is due to start before and during half term. In addition to this, staff and pupils are working hard to brighten up the classrooms and communal areas with wonderful displays that celebrate their work. I love the art work that has been completed and displayed in the hall to celebrate a wide range of famous artistic styles.

### Attendance

Your child's education and well-being are the primary concerns for all of the staff at St Leonard's. Each time a child is absent from school they miss vital teaching and learning opportunities and the chance to develop relationships skills with their peers. As a school, we monitor attendance rigorously and do contact families where attendance falls below our expected standard. While I am fully aware that we are still in strange times, can I please ask that you make every effort to ensure your child is in school and on time every day.

### New appointments

We are delighted to confirm that two new teaching assistants will be joining our team. Miss Natalie Robson (our former Kick Start trainee) began on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 and Mrs Diane Reed will hopefully take up her new post after half term – we warmly welcome them both to our school community.

We still have a vacancy for school cook. If you would be interested in applying, please contact Mrs Rose in the office for an application pack.

Have a lovely weekend,

**Dionne Dunn**

**Acting Head Teacher**