



St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

Tunstall Village Rd,
New Silksworth,
Sunderland
SR3 2BB

Tele: 0191 5210300

Email: office@stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Twitter: @St_Leonards_RC

Newsletter no. 9

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Dear parents and carers,

Well we have reached the end of our first half term of 2022, and the year seems to be moving as quickly as the winds we are experiencing at the moment! While I am looking forward to the half term break, I am equally excited to see what the next half term will bring; including the opportunities to welcome parents back into school. The latest figures and guidance from Sunderland Local Authority continues to indicate a reduction in the numbers of COVID infections in our area, but we do still need to be vigilant in order to ensure we can gather together in school moving forward.

Friends of St Leonard's - In the past few weeks I have spoken to a few of parents about setting up the 'Friends of St Leonard's' Parent and Teacher Association and have been delighted with the responses and offers to get involved. In order to get this venture off the ground, and to raise some much-needed funds for items such as playground equipment for the children, I am proposing to hold a brief meeting on 9th March at 2.30 pm to establish who would be prepared to become involved with the running and supporting of the 'The Friends' group.

A polite reminder! - When children are being collected from after-school activities, would all parents/carers please stand back from the adult dismissing the children and wait for the child to be sent to you, rather than coming forward to collect the child or distracting the adult/child during this time. I appreciate this may take a few minutes, but in the interest of ensuring the safety of all children, it is important that all families follow this request.

World Book Day - On March 3rd 2022, St Leonards will be marking the 25th anniversary of World Book Day, and joining in with this year's theme and message for all children: ***You are a reader!***

To help us celebrate the day we are asking children to get dressed up as their favourite book character. This is an exciting opportunity to your child to 'become part of a favourite story', but please be realistic and avoid unnecessary expense by making your own home-made design rather than feeling the need to buy a costume – grandparents usually have some fantastic accessories that can be 'borrowed'!

An exciting list of £1 World Book Day books has already been released, and our children will receive a book token for this. To explore the book selection and find your local book seller go to <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>.

Out of this World Reading - As indicated in my previous correspondence, reading in school is to be celebrated and encouraged at every opportunity. To aid this, we are launching our 'Out of this World Reading' (OOTWR) system that will go through our whole school, from Reception to Year 6. It is a reward system to promote reading both at home and in school. In each classroom, we have an OOTWR display, with ten planets representing 10 'reads'. Each day the children are recorded as reading at home (both with an adult or independently) or in school with an adult, they get a point. Once they get 10 points they 'move up the planets'. When pupils achieve 50 reads, they receive a '50 reads' bookmark. Once they reach 100 reads, they receive a 100 reads certificate and have the opportunity to aim for 200 'reads'. You will be able to see the system in action during the reading cafés, when you will be provided with further details around how you can help your child with reading.

Congratulations - Following last weeks 'story telling' videos, I was asked to choose a winner. I realised quickly that this was an impossible choice and so passed the task to our Year 6 children. They thoroughly enjoyed every story and chose Mrs Fearby's telling of the 'Escapee' as the winner. Well done, Mrs Fearby!

More new arrivals - Laurel class have this week adopted 3 stick insects. They are tiny just now, but seem to double in size overnight! The children are delighted with their new class members. A big thank you to Blake and his family.

Finally...

Happy holidays from all of the staff at St Leonard's. We hope you have a happy and restful half term. Please stay safe and we will see you back in school on the 28th February.

Dionne Dunn

Acting Head Teacher

