



## St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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### Dear parents and carers,

It seems to have been a very long time since we were able to share happy events that are taking place in school, but now that all official mourning has finished it is exciting to be able to tell parents and carers about the wonderful things that have been happening in school. Please check the new website and Facebook pages for further details.

Our Reception children have settled in beautifully and are enjoying their new learning. In the coming months, changes will be taking place to the outdoor areas of the Reception class to reflect the work that has taken place indoors – exciting times for our Early Years children and staff!

### Afterschool clubs

All afterschool and lunchtime clubs have now started. We have sporting activities in the shape of football training on Mondays and Tuesdays (Mondays will be restricted to the school team once chosen), and Tag Rugby on Fridays. There are still a few places available in Tuesday's football training, which can be booked via Parent Pay in the usual way, and some free spaces available for Tag Rugby on a Friday (this half term only), which can be booked by emailing the office. We are delighted to relaunch our Mini Vinnie Club, which will focus on supporting our local community, alongside the launch of our new CAFOD club that will consider more global initiatives. Both of these clubs have come about as a result of the interest shown by our children regarding improving the school environment and desire to become more aware of how to help the planet. There has been an excellent uptake for both of these clubs, and there is still room for a few more future campaigners to join CAFOD club.

Music clubs are now also underway. Private music lessons have begun for pupils wanting to learn to play the guitar, drums and keyboards. We have sets of drums in school for those children learning this instrument; however, due to the unexpected demand, this is not the case for guitar or keyboard lessons. With this in mind I am putting out a plea to all of our families for loans or donations of guitars or electric keyboards to help us ensure all children have the opportunity to learn the instrument of their choice. Please do not offer loans or donations of instruments that are expensive or have sentimental value. For those children who love to sing, the lunchtime choir club has also begun.

We are still hoping to start other clubs, but have limited staff to run these. We are very interested in starting a gardening club to grow our own vegetables for the school kitchen and craft clubs to teach children important skills, such as sewing and knitting. If you have a skill that could be transferred into an afterschool club or lunchtime club and you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the school office so that we can discuss your support. Wrap around provision continues to be offered on the three-tier system; I am delighted to see that numbers are improving!

### Meet the teacher

In the coming weeks, we will be holding 'meet the teacher' open mornings for all year groups. You will be invited in to hear from your child's teacher about the important messages relating to your child's coming term, such as homework and general expectations. Please look out for a following letter with all of the dates for this term.

### Uniform

Your children look amazing in their lovely new uniforms. I am delighted to see that the majority of families have followed the school policy. There are, however, a very small minority of children who are still wearing earrings or clear earring retainers – please note that these are not allowed and all earrings should be removed before returning to school. Also, as the weather is becoming colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat for outdoor play. As we are all aware, the general costs of living have increased significantly in recent months, and look likely to get worse in months to come. With this in mind, we are looking for ways to save money and support one another. We have received some very kind donations of school uniform and coats to pass onto any family who can make use of them. We think this is a great idea and if you need any further uniform for your child, or have any nearly new items you would like to donate, then we would gladly pass these on. Should you require any additional uniform for your child, please contact the school to see what we have available before buying new – we can help the planet by recycling in the process!

### **Healthy packed lunches**

I, and many of the staff, spend a large amount of time in the lunch hall on a daily basis. It has been alarming to see the number of children who are now bringing in packed lunches, and the poor nutritional value of many of these. I have re-visited the Healthy Packed Lunch Policy and will be sharing this with you all in the coming days. Please note, no child in Key Stage 1 or Reception classes should be bringing in a packed lunch, as they receive a free school meal. If you want your child to continue to bring in a packed lunch, and they are in Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2, please contact me to discuss this in person. As for pupils in Key Stage 2, packed lunches will have to meet the guidance in the school policy and, where not, unhealthy snacks will be replaced by a piece of fruit and parents will be contacted. We are committed to ensuring that children receive the correct education about healthy living while at St Leonard's, as well as simply an academic education.

### **School dinners**

The school dinner menu is shared with parents on a half termly basis and is developed in line with seasonal produce and sustainable foods. The menus are delicious and we are sure if children tried the food, they would enjoy this. Enjoying a meal, sitting at a table and talking with friends is a real treat and valuable social skill! We have a new cook joining us very soon and, once he is settled into his new kitchen, we will be holding a taster session after school for parents to come along and try the lovely food on offer – this will then help you to support your child in choosing a healthy, nutritional meal.

If you are concerned about an allergy or specific dietary requirement for your child, we have Trust Policy in place that can help with this. Parents and carers would need to complete a BCCET medical diet request form for every child that has a food allergy or intolerance. If a bespoke menu is requested, they must also provide a medical note to evidence the food allergy/intolerance. This must be from a qualified medical professional/medical establishment. If this is relevant to your child, please complete and return the relevant form which can be obtained from the school office.

A breakdown of what this means for any child with a food allergy:

- A dietary choice i.e. Halal, vegetarian, vegan, is not included in the definition of a medical diet.
- An allergy or intolerance to certain foods.
- A medical diet is defined as a diet whereby the standard school menu is unsuitable and requires adaptation to be made safe for a customer due to a medically diagnosed dietary requirement.
- Once the request has been received by the school this will be passed onto the catering team to assess and if necessary, compile a bespoke menu for that child.

### **Free school meals (FSM)**

You may be eligible for further help with meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Please follow this link [Free School Meals - Together for Children](#) to see if you are entitled to free school meals and the additional support this provides for your family.

If you are entitled, this will also support our school as FSM entitlement brings additional funding to the school in the form of Pupil Premium – it is this funding which allows the school to provide many of the extras we can offer some children: reduced or free charges for any school trips, small group interventions, Speech and Language resources, plus much more. It is important that your child is registered with the benefits agency in order for this funding to be released.

If you need any support with this, or anything to do with school dinners, please contact the office.

### **Reception intake 2023**

Despite only just starting this year, we are already receiving enquiries about starting our school next September in Reception class. We will be holding a number of open days for families to come and visit our wonderful school. If you know anyone who has a child due to start Reception class next year, please pass on the information as it is shared or encourage them to contact school directly.

As many of you will know, we do have some spaces in some year groups. We have recently been joined by a number of pupils moving into the area as a result of word of mouth and recommendations. Thank you for supporting us in this way and please continue to do so; I can't wait for us to be full again and even explore the opening of Nursery provision!

### **Finally...**

We will be celebrating the achievements of our pupils in our new look celebration assembly from this Friday. If your child has something to share – a dance medal, football trophy, letter printed in a newspaper or other form of award – please encourage them to bring it in on a Friday morning and we will show and tell during the assembly!

Have a lovely week,

**Dionne Dunn**  
**Head Teacher**