



St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter no. 11

27th January, 2023

Dates for your diary:

Term time

The Spring term runs from 9th January until 31st March, 2023.

School closes for half term on Friday 17th February and reopens on Monday 27th February, 2023.

January 2023

- 31.1.2023 – Year R/1 liturgical prayer (parents welcome)
- 2.2.23 – Whole school Mass in church at 10 am.
- 7.2.2023 – Year 5/6 liturgical prayer (parents welcome)
- 14.2.2023 - Year 4 liturgical prayer (parents welcome)
- 14.2.2023 – Valentine discos (see separate letter from Friends of St Leonard's for further details)

Happy weekend!

*Dionne Dunn
Headteacher*

Dear parents and carers,

NEU Teaching Strike

You will have by now had the opportunity to see which year groups are affected by the industrial action planned for Wednesday 1st February, 2023. Years 3, 5 & 6 will be closed to pupils; all other pupils are expected to be in – including siblings in different year groups. Pupils in Y3, 5 & 6 are being given a paper copy of the information about the closure of their class, along with details regarding lunch provision if they receive free school meals. Please note, there will be no remote teaching on the strike days and no additional work set. While I appreciate the impact that the strike may have, I am sure you will agree that members of a lawful union have every right to exercise their right to strike. I can assure you that those members of staff who have taken the decision to do so have not taken this decision lightly – quite the opposite! The information provided so far relates to the first strike day only. Details about future strikes will be shared when they become available.

Pupil absences

Can I remind all parents of the importance to inform school as soon as possible if your child is not going to be in school due to illness? It is a requirement that you telephone the school office on 0191 5210300 before 9.30 am on the first day that your child is absent. We have a care of duty for all children. If a child is not in school, and we have not had contact with the parents on a regular basis, then set procedures are in place to enable school to ensure the welfare of our pupils – please refer to our website for more information included in the Attendance Policy.

Wrap around provision

The trial for full wrap around provision in the Autumn term has proven to be a real success. It is therefore the intention that this will continue, as long as it is used. It is important that you pre-book your child's places to ensure that we have sufficient staff to cover the needs of each pupil in the club. Also, please remember that the wrap around provision times are:

Breakfast club: 7.45 am – 8.45 am

After school: 3.10 pm – 6.00 pm

Please do not come outside of these hours as there will be no-one available to supervise your child. In the case of a real emergency, please contact the office to discuss how school could possibly help.

Uniform

I have noticed in recent weeks an increasing number of children wearing trainers that have logos, white soles or white markings on them; I must therefore remind you that school shoes or trainers must be plain black only. Also, there is a growing trend for children to wear coloured or themed socks over tights or leggings. Again, this is not part of the school uniform and is not allowed. If children are wearing extra socks in this manner as it is cold when coming to and from school, then they must remove the socks once inside. The appearance of pupils says a great deal about the standards in our school and I therefore will insist on correct uniform being worn at all times. Thank you for your help with these matters.

Thank you...

Following our taster session last term, and the increased support from all of our wonderful families, the number of children eating a hot school lunch has increased greatly. This is an excellent achievement and credit to the tasty food provided by our kitchen team.

If your child is in Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to a free lunch every day. If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6, they could be entitled to a free school lunch if you are entitled to certain benefits. If you think you may be eligible for this, please do apply as it benefits you, your child and the school!