



St Leonard's Catholic Primary School

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Email: sle_office@stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Parents' email: parent@stleonardprimary.org.uk

Website: www.stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy few weeks it has been! Our children have taken part in line dancing lessons, active sessions at the Puma Centre, explored Black History month (and produced excellent work that is displayed in the hall), enjoyed a rock concert, watched Sunderland play from their own private box at the Stadium of Light, as well as participating in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This academic year is certainly going to be busy!

Contacting school

As a reminder, if you want to contact staff in school, please do so via the parent email only:

Parents@stleonardsprimary.org.uk.

Class Dojo is being used by staff to send out information and reminders about events in school only and will not be monitored for parental contact. If you have sent a message to your child's teacher and have not had a reply, please resend this via the parent email address above. Thank you!

Parents' evening

We are holding our Autumn term parents' evenings on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October. This year we are offering both face-to-face appointments and telephone appointments. If you haven't already booked your appointment, please contact school urgently to arrange this, as there will not be the opportunity for catch up appointments this term due to other afterschool commitments.

Term time holidays

Despite past communications, there are still many families who have booked holidays during term time; all of which are unauthorised. Over the last two years, the Local Authority and school have not enforced fines for unauthorised absences, due to the lingering impact that the pandemic; however, this is no longer the case. Therefore, as previously advised, all holidays taken during term time can be subject to a fine and parents should be aware that this is at a cost of £60 per child and payable by both parents, where applicable.

Social media

I ask all parents to be more vigilant in monitoring their children's online devices and to be increasingly aware about the legal age of different platforms, games and subsequent dangers that are present; including mobile phones, X-box, PlayStation and adult rated games, such as Grand Theft Auto, or GTA as it is commonly referred as. Unfortunately, in recent weeks I have been approached by a number of parents telling me about incidents that have taken place on social media; in particular WhatsApp which has a legal user age of 16!

In school we do teach online safety as part of the planned curriculum, and more often as and when required. We have also supported families in 'investigating' incidents that have happened outside of school, despite this not actually being a school responsibility and one we may not be able to continue. I can confirm that children in school will receive further training around online safety and the use of social media and we will also be offering a training session for parents – please do watch out for the dates and come along as I know you will be surprised, if not shocked, at the real dangers that children are exposed too!

Congratulations

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate Miss Latham for all of the wonderful sporting events and competitions that she arranges for the children of St Leonard's; often giving up her own time to enable children to attend events that they thoroughly enjoy. I am delighted that Miss Latham's efforts have been recognised at the Sunderland Primary Games Awards when she received the Silver Standard for PE and the award for 'Emerging School of the Year' on behalf of St Leonard's – an excellent achievement and further affirmation that St Leonard's continues to grow from strength to strength!

Mrs Dunn
Headteacher