



# St Leonard's Buddies



The St Leonard's Buddy System is intended to help build confidence in our children, enhance pupil relations, and strengthen the school community.

## **HOW IS THE BUDDY SYSTEM ORGANISED?**

Pupils from Nursery through to Primary 7 are partnered together with at least one other pupil as follows:

**NURSERY – PRIMARY 4**

**PRIMARY 1 – PRIMARY 5**

**PRIMARY 2 – PRIMARY 6**

**PRIMARY 3 – PRIMARY 7**

Every child in Nursery through to Primary 3 is allocated a 'Buddy' from an older class. Depending on our cohort, there may be more Buddies than youngsters, which is great because it means some children can have more than one Buddy!

On the other hand, if there are more youngsters than Buddies in a particular class, some Buddies may be supporting more than one child.

When children reach the end of Primary 3 they then become a BUDDY in Primary 4 and we hope they will continue the good work of their own buddies in order to support their new friends in Nursery.

## **WHY INTRODUCE A BUDDY SYSTEM?**

We hope to build a community in St Leonard's and help the pupils feel like they really belong and are a part of something.

This will help them to feel accepted. If they feel accepted, they are more likely to accept other people, being more open-minded and welcoming of others.

## **HOW WILL IT WORK?**

We will provide opportunities for our Buddies to develop relationships with each other during Buddy afternoons throughout the session and encourage the older children to be ready to support their younger Buddy if and when they need it.

We will encourage our older Buddies to look to form a connection by asking questions and actively listening. If they don't know what to say to them, just ask a question! The little boys and girls love to chat and this should soon become natural and reciprocal, fostering a real connection between them. When they see each other around the school, a friendly wave, smile or high five can do wonders for a child's self-esteem!