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*“Saint Leonard’s Primary School - LEARN CARE PRAY - Making The Most of Every Day”
Kindness – Respect – Faith – Honesty– Friendship – Love*

Welcome Newsletter – August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a wonderful start we have had to the new term! The children are all looking so smart in their uniforms and have settled very well into their new class.

I would like to welcome back Mrs Russell who returns to our school following maternity leave. Mrs Russell will be covering Mrs Fairgrieve’s maternity leave. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Fairgrieve on the birth of their daughter, Mila last month. We had the delight in meeting Mila during our Inservice Day on Monday. She is adorable!

We also welcome to our school, Miss Barrie who will be teaching in Room 7 alongside Mrs Tyler.

Mrs Scott has taken early retirement and we wish her lots of happiness as she enjoys time with her family and friends. Miss Hughes, one of our support assistants has transferred to St. Louise. We also bid farewell to another of our support assistants, Mrs Doherty, although she will continue to support us in her role as an active parent member of the Parent Council.

We are also due to wave goodbye to Miss White on the 1st September, as she moves to St. John the Baptist Primary. Thank you to Miss White for supporting our children and school during her time here whilst covering for Mrs Dorman in her absence.

Our P1 pupils are all shiny clean and having so much fun in school! We also welcome the following P2 – P7 pupils to our school this year; Reinett, Emilie, Amelia, Zanelle, Thomas, Zara, Emily, James, Luis, and Ryan. Also, welcome back to Nathan who rejoins us in P7. Furthermore, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new parents and carers.

Classes 2023-24

Room 1 – P1 Mrs Gillen	Room 2 – P1/2 Mrs Ballentine (Mon-Wed) Mrs Toner (Wed-Fri)
Room 3 – P2 Mrs Parrett	Room 4 – P3 Mrs Lennon (Mon-Wed) Mrs Melrose (Thurs-Fri)
Room 5 – P3/4 Mr Finnigan	Room 6 – P4 Mrs Rigg

Room 7 - P5 Miss Barrie Mrs Tyler (Mon pm and Thurs)	Room 8 – P6 Miss Phimister
Room 9 – P7 Mrs Reilly (Mon-Wed) Mrs Masson (Wed-Fri)	Room 10 – P7 Mrs Brown
CCC – Mrs Russell (will deliver lessons to Rm 1, and Rms 3-10 across the week).	Support for Learning – Mrs Tyler (Tues/Wed)

The Senior Leadership Team within the school is Miss Mullen (HT), Mrs Dorman (DHT), Mrs Tyler (PT) and Mrs Toner (PT).

We would kindly ask that should you wish to speak to a member of staff including management that this is done via phoning or emailing the school office and not directly through email to staff. We often don't check our emails on a daily basis due to the pace of life in a school, however the office would ensure we were made aware of anything significant. We aim to respond to any calls/queries within two working days. The policy for South Lanarkshire Council is 5 working days. We appreciate your patience.

School Improvement Plan

The priorities for school improvement this year are:

Improvement Priority 1: Engaging in the West Partnership 'Improving Our Schools' programme.

Improvement Priority 2: Further embedding play-based learning pedagogy

Improvement Priority 3: Implementation of revised planning materials

Improvement Priority 4: Faith in Action – Serving the Common Good (*with a particular focus on community links and establishing a Mini-Vinnies group in collaboration with the Parish*).

PE Days



Gym kit consists of shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, school polo shirt and suitable soft-soled shoes.

Children in Rooms 5-10 will use the changing rooms and should bring their kit to school. PE kit must not be worn to school by these classes.

Children in Rooms 1-4 are asked to wear their polo shirt on gym days, and can bring in bottoms to change into in class or wear shorts under skirt/trousers.

Please may I remind you that football colours are not permitted at any time.

Jewellery must not be worn during PE. If your child has earrings then these must be removed by the child, not worn on gym days or plasters should be supplied by parent for child to cover ears.

On occasion PE days may alter, e.g. if we have a visiting specialist, however the class teacher would note this in your child's homework diary.

If a child does not have suitable footwear, then they may not be able to safely take part in PE. A letter would be issued to advise you of this. Should you require any assistance with uniform items then please contact the school office who will assist with this, including confidentiality with funding.

Room 1 Wed – PE Outdoor Learning - will take place on a Monday (separate letter will be issued with details)	Room 2 Tues – PE Outdoor Learning - will take place on a Monday (separate letter will be issued with details)	Room 3 Thurs – PE Outdoor Learning – will take place on a Wednesday (separate letter will be issued with details)	Room 4 Mon and Tues	Room 5 Wed and Thurs
Room 6 Tues and Thurs	Room 7 Mon and Fri	Room 8 Mon and Fri	Room 9 Wed and Fri	Room 10 Tues and Thurs

School security

Thank you to all parents and carers for observing the adult free policy in the school playground in the mornings.

Starting from next week, we will begin to encourage P1 to enter themselves. However, if your child is a little upset you may enter the playground. We tend to find that the more time the adults are within sight then this can cause upset. Often if one child cries, then this can have a knock-on effect to others. Therefore, we will work on minimising the time adults are in the playground.

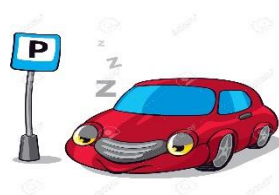
There will be adult supervision in the playground from 8.50am.

At 3pm parents/carers are permitted in the playground. The gates will be unlocked for entry at 2.55pm.

Dogs are not permitted in the school grounds, and we abide by a no smoking policy which includes e-cigarettes.

We encourage our pupils to be Responsible Citizens and value your support in this. Please ensure that your child is aware of who is collecting them at 3pm and prior to attending school in the morning if there are any changes to their normal routine. May I ask that you advise any relatives and friends bringing your child to school of our drop off and pick up procedure.

Parking



Please may I ask that all parents/carers use the overspill car park when visiting the school and during drop off/pick up times. The car park immediately in front of the school is for staff only and blue badge disabled users. We are very fortunate to have the overspill car park and there is ample room for everyone to park there safely. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Our staff car park will be locked between 8.50am - 9.05am and 2.50pm - 3.05pm.

Wet days

Traditionally on very wet days, the children remain indoors at interval and lunchtime under adult supervision. There is no supervision, however, early in the morning before school. On very wet mornings children will be given access to the Dining Hall and Gym Hall from 8.50am onwards. If the rain is light, then children will still play outside. We encourage children to bring a jacket to school every day.

Keep Your Child Safe – Please Let Us Know

To ensure that all children have arrived at school safely we carry out an Absence Check every day at 9.30am. Please notify the School Office between 8.30am and 9.30am if your child is going to be absent from school and give a reason so that the Class Teacher can be informed. If there has been no notification from a parent, then the School Office will telephone to find out where the child is. Children who arrive late must report to the School Office before going to class to ensure that they are marked 'present'.

Medical Information

Please inform the office of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school. If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please ensure that you complete the form with the school office and that medication has a prescription label on it. Please do not give your child medication to keep in their bag, it must be kept in the office.

Children experiencing sickness and diarrhoea should not return to school for 48 hours since the last bout. This assists with limiting the bug amongst pupils and staff and is part of the NHS Public Health Procedure.

Mrs Dorman will issue Care Plans for update to our P2-P7 parents next week and new Plans to those in P1. These are only required by those children with medical needs. Please contact us at any point during the year should circumstances change.



School Meals/Packed Lunches

Parents are reminded that children in Primaries 1-5 are entitled to a Free School Meal every day. A meal costs £2.05 for children in Primaries 6-7. The menu is available on the School App. Payment is made online via ParentPay. Contact the school office if you need assistance with ParentPay.



Nut Allergies: We have some children and staff in the school who suffer from a Nut Allergy which can bring on a dangerous reaction if not treated promptly. However, we can greatly reduce the risk to these children by making Saint Leonard's Primary a NUT FREE ZONE!

Can I ask for the cooperation of all parents, pupils and staff in helping us to achieve this. Please avoid the use of food containing nuts when making up packed lunches and do not give children sweets containing peanuts to bring to school. e.g. Snickers, Fruit & Nut Bar etc. Sometimes even the smell of peanuts on someone's breath can bring on an attack in children suffering from a Nut Allergy. Your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school every day and to keep hydrated. Only plain water is permitted in class and children can access the water dispensers for a refill should they require. Children should take their bottle home each night to be washed. Fizzy drinks are not permitted in the school.

We encourage children to have healthy snacks.

Breakfast Club

The free breakfast club operates from 8.15am – 8.45am in the dining hall. We ask that children attending enter no later than 8.35am to ensure they have time to eat their meal. There is no need to register for the club. Your child can attend as and when required. Entry is via the playground to the dining hall.

School Uniform



As always, the start of a new school year sees every child looking so smart in school uniform each day. The continued support of parents in this area throughout the session will be very much appreciated.

Traditional black school shoes are the preferred footwear.

All children must have a pair of indoor shoes to change into.

Plimssoles are the preferred indoor shoe and can double up as gym shoes.

Please note the aforementioned information in relation to PE kit.

Names on Clothing/Personal Belongings

Please ensure that your child's name is marked on all uniform garments. This will help us return items to their rightful owner. Please encourage your child to look after uniform items, lunch boxes etc. As you can appreciate, many children have the same uniform items and if these are unmarked then it proves very difficult to return it to the owner. Thank you for your assistance.

Annual Data Check

It is vitally important that the school is kept up to date with changes in addresses and telephone numbers. The Annual Data Check Forms will be issued this week to allow us to update contact details. If there are any further changes during the year, then please notify the School Office immediately of this so that we can update our records.

Photography/Video Recording

In compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, I would like to advise that throughout the course of the School Year there are a number of occasions when the children are photographed/filmed taking part in a number of school activities. Sometimes the photographs are for display within the school and sometimes they are for publication on our Twitter page, Blog or in a local or national newspaper. Consent forms will be issued next week. It is essential that these are returned so that we know which children have permission. Until a permission form is returned no photographs will be taken of your child.

Mobile Phones

If a pupil needs to contact their parents during the school day, procedures are in place for them to use the phones in the school office. Parents will be aware of instances of mobile phone misuse in schools, including text bullying and filming of pupils and staff without permission. Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school, therefore, must observe the following rules:

1. The mobile phone must be switched off and out of sight at all times during the school day, including break times.
2. The use of camera and filming functions on mobile phones is banned at all times during the school day.
3. Mobile phones are brought to school at a pupil's own risk and the school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage.

Money/ParentPay

All parents are required to be signed up to ParentPay and use this for any payments for school meals, milk and other school business, e.g. trips. P1 will be issued with a sign-up form this week. Milk is 26p and should be purchased via ParentPay. If you are entitled to free school meals, then your child does not pay for milk.

School App

Please note that we have a School App. We would encourage you to download this free app as we will use it as our main form of communication with you. To download the App please search 'PSA' or 'PSA primaryschoolapp' in the Google Play or Apple app stores. Once you've opened the app, just search for St. Leonard's Primary School and you will see our school badge.

We have issued a paper version of this new term newsletter to new families. However, I would ask that you note that no further paper versions will be issued. Everything will be uploaded via the App, Blog and Parent Portal.

Parent Groups

A warm welcome is extended to all parents (especially our new parents) to get involved in our PTA/Parent Council. We very much hope that our membership of both groups will grow. At the forthcoming AGM, elections will take place and if you would like any information on the roles then please get in touch.

In particular, our PTA are in desperate need of new members. Due to parents who have left the group (children now in S1), we do not have enough members to retain the group as it currently stands. Should this remain the case at the AGM then this would mean disbanding the group.

Our Parent Council AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 30th August at 6.30pm. Additionally, our PTA AGM will take place on Wednesday 6th September at 7pm.

Both group meetings take place in school and are concluded within an hour.

Our PTA have a Facebook page with lots of information available on it - **stleonardspta**
Parent Council email: **st.leonards-parentcouncil@outlook.com**
PTA email: st.leonardspta@yahoo.co.uk

Diary Dates

Our Diary Dates can be located on our blog website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/stleonards/diary-dates/>

Please also note the details of the South Lanarkshire School Holidays.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/stleonards/school-holidays-2022-23/>

Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged and are marked as unauthorised. No work would be provided to your child should they go on holiday during term time.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please refer to our Attendance Leaflet – copies are on our App and Blog.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/stleonards/attendance/>

Parentsportal

We require all parents to sign up for Parentsportal. SLC have recently launched the digital service as a means for schools to directly communicate with parents and carers.

Through Parentsportal you will be able to grant permission for school trips, view lunch menus, view attendance, update phone number and address, as well as book Parents Evening.

Our aim is for all parents and carers to be signed up by the end of September so that we can move away from paper copies of letters.

If you need any assistance, then please contact the school office.

Twitter

A reminder that should you wish to join our closed Twitter page, then email the school office gw14stleonardsoffice@glow.sch.uk with a note of your Twitter handle name and child's name. No requests will be approved without this information.

Playground

We are currently reviewing our playground. In previous years, children have had a zone in the playground to play dependent upon the year group they are in. We are mindful that some year groups wish to mix a little more.

Presently for health and safety reasons, the MUGA pitch will be the only zone where a ball is permissible.

Miss White is reviewing playground zoning with our children and staff and further information will be updated to parents in due course.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Mullen

Head Teacher