



St Leonard's Newsletter

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"Nurturing Faith & Inspiring Success"

St Leonard's C of E Primary
School
Mitcham Lane, Streatham
SW16 6NP

Issue 85

May 2019



May News



Each year at the beginning of May, I'm reminded of a phrase which I heard some years ago and that I reflect on regularly: **"The job of a school is to prepare children for the tests of life rather than a life of tests."**

May is the month when, most notably, Year 6 complete the SATs tests. It is also a month when teachers in the other Year groups are observing, collecting evidence and assessing so that they can begin the process of writing reports in June.

At St Leonard's, we try to achieve the right balance between preparing children appropriately for tests and assessments whilst never losing sight of our broad and balanced curriculum driven through our IPC topics. As our strapline states, we wish to *nurture* and *inspire*.

Some form of standardised testing is not only inevitable, it is necessary if we are to be able to make comparative judgments about individual pupil attainment and progress. The problem comes when people misuse test data to draw narrow conclusions about a child's or a whole school's performance. Politicians and journalists can be particularly guilty of this.

This week, my 15 year old daughter has been getting herself to and from central London for her work experience with all that this entails, dealing with delayed trains etc. No amount of school tests can instil resilience, adaptability or common sense. But tests, used sparingly and purposefully can be used to teach children the difference between pressure and stress. People are now rightly giving greater consideration to general well-being. Having opportunity to deal with an appropriate level of pressure can be helpful in learning how to minimise and hopefully avoid stress.

I am very proud of and grateful to the staff at this school for consistently handling the pressures placed upon them so that test stress is not placed upon the children at any of the key points in their primary journey. I would like to thank you also for the partnership and support you provide in approaching such tasks positively.

Best wishes,

Simon Jackson,
Head Teacher

Girls IBM Robo Challenge

Congratulations to Ruby Coulson, Elsa Dickson, Nikola Motycki, Delissa Rhone, Sarah Quereshi, Manhoor Usman and Alysha Musah for representing St Leonard's School in the IBM Robo challenge against 13 other London schools. The girls had to undertake five challenges:

1. To choreograph and program a robot to dance to a medley of songs.
2. To program the robot to win a 5 metre race.
3. To design and write a computer game for other children to play.
4. To program the robot to follow specific directions around a board within a space of 1 hour without any adult help.
5. To deliver a presentation to an audience of other 50 people about this robot project.

Prior to the challenge, the girls had spent lunchtimes and after school working hard on these challenges. They showed great perseverance and developed strong problem solving skills while having to learn and research how to go about the tasks. Nerves were on edge and the adrenaline was high as deadlines had to be met and the day for the robot, and the girls, to perform arrived.

The IBM directors were so impressed by the girls' presentations and admitted that the tasks were incredibly difficult even for adult computer scientists let alone year 6 pupils. The girls achieved an incredible amount by undertaking all these tasks and they should be proud of their work.

Additional School Closure

Please be aware that **the school will be closed on Thursday 23rd May** as it has been designated for use as a polling station in the European election.

Should the UK not be required to vote in this election, school will still be closed to pupils on this day. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.





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Travel Safety

Drivers are asked to be more considerate of pedestrians and local residents.

Please use the surrounding roads to park and not private parking areas such as Campbell Close, Keens Close, Conal Court & Swallow Gardens. Please avoid making U-turns in Mitcham Lane; it is very dangerous.

You are reminded that children are only permitted to scoot on pavements; cycling is not encouraged due to the bus lane. Bikes may not be stored on school premises.

School Uniform

As the better weather hopefully appears it is fine for children to wear winter or summer uniform.

Please note that the Summer uniform is as follows:

Boys

Grey (not black) shorts or trousers

White long or short sleeved shirt (tucked in!!!)

School tie (jumper optional)

Girls

Blue and white chequered summer dress

Please note, boys and girls are required to wear black shoes / sandals. In the interest of children's safety, no open toed shoes are to be worn.

Girls are not allowed to mix and match winter and summer uniform - therefore socks but not tights must be worn with the summer dress.

Please help us to create and maintain a smart appearance.

Dates for your Diary



Forthcoming events

The dates of all the major events for the Summer term are listed below. New events are highlighted yellow.

Mon 6th May Bank Holiday - School Closed

Mon 13th May Reception to London Aquarium

Mon 13th May - Thurs 16th May KS2 SATs week

Fri 17th May Sports Day

Thurs 23rd May School Closed

Mon 27th - Fri 31st May Half Term holiday

Sat 29th June Summer Fair

Wed 3rd July Nursery trip to Wisley

Mon 8th July 2G to Transport Museum

Tues 9th July 2S to Transport Museum
5B to Thames Explorer

Wed 10th July Summer BBQ

Thurs 18th July End of Term
2:00pm

Attendance

Our target is 97% for each class. Please note your child's class. The whole school attendance is currently 96.58%.

Attendance by Class

RG - 95.53% RV - 96.32%

1A - 95.64% IG - 95.25%

2G - 96.59% 2S - 97.45%

3M - 96.23% 4K - 97.38%

5B - 97.12% 6W - 98.34%

A high level of attendance is absolutely vital for all pupils. You are reminded that no holiday requests will be authorised at any point in the school year. **This includes requests to visit relatives in other countries.**

Pupils should attend school when suffering from a cough or cold, but not if suffering from sickness or diarrhoea. Registers are checked each term by the Local Authority, so parents may be contacted by an attendance officer if their child's level of attendance causes concern.



Sports Day



Friday 17th May

Juniors 9:30am

Infants 1:30pm

Tooting Bec

Athletics Track

Parents Welcome