



St Leonard's Newsletter

Available to view online at
www.st-leonards.lambeth.sch.uk
"Nurturing Faith & Inspiring Success "

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

Issue 72

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February News



We are now at the half way point in the current academic year, though the weather is doing its best to prevent Spring from appearing!

Please take a moment to read the severe weather response plan on the second page of this newsletter and understand that we will always do our very best to keep the school open.

I am happy to be in a position to update you on our application to become a member of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's Multi Academy Trust. During half term I received confirmation that the Department for Education (DfE) has approved our application and has issued an academy order to the London Borough of Lambeth. As such, we can expect to finalise the conversion process some time around the Easter holiday period. This will be a highly positive development for our school as we are able to establish a professional community with schools of a similar size or smaller, all with a Christian foundation at its heart. It will also help us to achieve more within our financial resources, being accountable to the Diocesan trustees rather than Lambeth Council. There will not be any visible changes to our school as a result of this conversion. Staying true to our historic foundation, we are retaining and registering the word "school" rather than "academy" in the title and there will not be any changes to our uniform. The super observant amongst you will notice an additional logo to the letter headed paper once we become a member, but that is all.

Please may I draw your attention to the attendance figures published on page 2. For the first time this academic year we have dipped below 97% and this is a concern. Parents of pupils with especially low attendance can expect to be contacted both by the school and the Local Authority. As a school, we want to do the best that we can for each child. For this to happen, they need to be in school, on time, every day.

Finally, a special "well done" to our choir for their performance as part of a mass choir at the 02 recently. It was a memorable and enjoyable event for all involved.

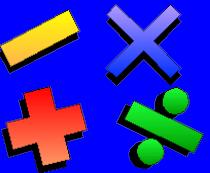
Best wishes,
Simon Jackson,
Head Teacher

A Message from The Minister of State for School Standards



Last week the school received a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP in which he acknowledged that 100% of our pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics at the end of KS2 in last year's tests, placing St Leonard's in the top 1% of schools in the country for attainment in mathematics.

As you know, we're not a school that either chases such accolades or loses the plot when we receive them. However, it is right that such comments are shared within our own community. Well done to the children who achieved these results and thanks to all those staff and parents involved in supporting the children to achieve such fantastic outcomes.



Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Our March coffee morning will take place in the Keegan Centre between **09:00 – 10:00** on **Thursday 1st March**. This will include an internet safety parent workshop, where you can discover just some of the things that your children probably already know!



Follow us on Twitter
@StLeonardsCEP

Severe Weather Response Plan

The time has come once again to inform all parents about our procedures if and when we become affected by significant snowfall. The school has secured a good supply of grit to help us cope in the event of difficult conditions. However, in the event of snowfall, a site inspection will be carried out by Mr James, our site manager. Based on his information, I will make a decision at 7:00am as to whether the school is to open or not. After communicating this to the Chair of Governors, the school's website will be updated by 7:15am with a message on the front page. If you have stored the school's website in your favourites page, you may need to click "Refresh" to be able to see this message.

We will also place a message on the Londonwide, School Open Check platform at: www.opencheck.lgfl.net/.

If using this service, select Lambeth from the drop down menu and click on St Leonard's where a message will be displayed. The school's Twitter feed will also display a message. **Continued in next column...**

Library Help



If you would like to volunteer to assist Mrs Chaloner with logging books onto the library's computer system, she would very much like to hear from you. Any assistance which you are able to offer would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Messages via Parent Mail will also be sent. Please note that **the website will be the fastest way of receiving information** as Parent Mail messages can take time to send when lots of schools are using the service.

In the event of school closure, only those parents who are not on Parent Mail will receive a telephone call before 8:00am. The school's telephone answering machine will play a recorded message informing of closure from 7:45am.

An evening site inspection will take place at 5:30pm with a view to making a judgement about the possibility of school being open the following day. The website will be updated at 6:00pm, either informing you of a definite decision or to say that a further inspection will take place in the morning and to check the website again at 7:15am.

I can assure you that whilst the safety of children is always our primary concern, every attempt will be made to keep the school open during bad weather and communicating regularly and clearly with you will be a priority. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary



Forthcoming events

New events are highlighted yellow.

Friday 2nd March World Book Day. Children dress up as book

Sun 4th March 8:00pm Parents Evening Book- ing system goes live

Wed 21st March 3:30pm - 7:00pm Parents Evening

Thurs 22nd March 3:30pm - 5:30pm Parents Evening

Fri 23rd March Year 1 to Wetlands Centre

Attendance

Our target is 97% for each class. Our whole school percentage has dropped to 96.91%. Please note your child's class.

Attendance by Class

RG - 96.13% 2S - 96.84% 6S - 96.85%

RV - 95.14% 3B - 98.44%

IA - 96.97% 4C - 97.24%

IG - 97.79% 5W - 96.44%

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.

Pupils should attend school when suffering from a cough or a cold, but not if suffering from sickness or diarrhoea.

School Uniform Ordering Information

There is a link via the home page on the school's website marked



where you can now order uniform online.

Alternatively, visit

www.schooltrendsonline.com then select 'Parent or Student find your School' and follow the instructions.