

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 74

April 2018



April News



I have always enjoyed poetry. The start of this term has reminded me of Kipling's famous poem, "If" - If you can wait and not be tired by waiting...

I have just had it confirmed that for our school to join the Diocese's Multi Academy Trust on the 1st of May, Lambeth had to complete the necessary paperwork by last Friday. This they did not do in time. As such, we are now scheduled to convert on June 1st instead. So be it.

There's a lesser known poem called, "Self Help" by Charles Bernstein which offers the reader a chance to reflect on many of life's circumstances. Bernstein's poem is very pragmatic in places - and never more so than in the following line:

"Miss the train? - Great chance to explore the station!"

We've "missed the latest MAT train", so I'm left to "explore Lambeth Central station" whilst looking forward to the journey ahead. The first thing I note is that it's inadequately staffed. Those with experience have left - either retired or have moved into independent companies. In their defence, those who remain lack support, but it's now incredibly difficult to speak to someone senior quickly when you need them. As such, when someone junior gives information which they believe to be true, there's certainly no guarantee that it actually is.

Fellow passengers on the station are in three groups. A group stand with me on platform 1. We're standing with optimism and confidence, waiting for the express train to Matville. Over on platform 2, a small group of angry steam enthusiasts who hate Matville (*though they've never been there and don't know where it is*) are waiting for steam to make a comeback. They will be disappointed. Meanwhile, the footbridge over the two platforms is crammed with people. Whilst they know that this station will ultimately close, they're wondering if a number of other Matville stations will open, hoping that they can get a ticket to one of them. In the meantime, the station's controller has decided to charge all the passengers for just being there. Those leaving for Matville are charged for a first class ticket one way. As for the rest, they're continually charged...for a train which might never come...and if it does, will only travel in circles.

(continued next column...)

The last line of Bernstein's poem is:

"Self Help - other drowns."

This is certainly not how we wish to operate. We want to maintain excellent relationships and partnerships with other schools. We just know that, if needed, it's far better to throw a lifeline to others from the safety of the shore, than to be thrashing about in the midst of danger with them.

I believe that the start of this term has only served to strengthen our community. I understand and respect the fears of the minority in relation to academisation. We will not forget you and will seek to reassure you as we move forward. However, I must say to the many of you who've been so supportive in both your words and deeds, that I truly appreciate it. Please do keep asking me questions. I will be very happy to answer them.

A heartfelt thank you to you all.

Simon Jackson,
Head Teacher

**FRIDAY 27th APRIL
FRIENDS OF
ST LEONARD'S
SUMMER FAIR MEETING
IN THE
KEEGAN CENTRE 9:00AM**



SATURDAY 30TH JUNE 12:00PM - 3:00PM

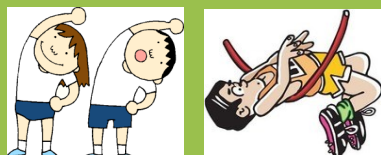


**Follow us on
Twitter**
@StLeonardsCEP

Staffing Update

 I'm pleased to say that Miss McFarlane, who's been working with Mrs Coveney in the school office recently, has now joined St Leonard's on a full time basis. In welcoming her, we thank you for your patience during the last few months when there's been some disruption to our usual service.

Sports Days



**Juniors -
Friday 18th
May 1:30pm**

**Infants - Wed
23rd May
1:30pm
Tooting Bec
Athletics
Track**

Additional Closure

The school will be closed on **Thursday 3rd May** as it is being used as a polling station for the local elections taking place on that day.



Reception Admissions

If your child will be joining us in September, welcome to St Leonard's. A meeting for new Reception parents will take place at 6:00pm on Thursday 14th June. Please do not bring your child to this meeting. If you have not yet had a tour of the school, please telephone the school office and we can arrange for this to happen.

School Uniform

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. 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

New events are highlighted yellow.

Wed 2nd May 5W to LCLC

Wed 2nd May 3B Exit Point on chocolate
2:30pm

Thurs 3rd May School Closed
(local election)

Mon 7th May School Closed (Bank Holiday)

**Mon 14th May -
Thurs 17th May** KS2 SATs Week

Thurs 17th May Reception to Ladyland Farm

Mon 28th May Half Term

Attendance

Our target is 97% for each class. Our whole school percentage is rising at 96.79%. Please note your child's class.

Attendance by Class

RG - 96.48% 2S - 96.75% 6S - 96.22%

RV - 95.71% 3B - 98.11%

IA - 96.66% 4C - 97.41%

IG - 97.64% 5W - 96.67%

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.