



## Langho and Billington St. Leonard's Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Dawn Lindley B.Sc (Hons) QTS CofEPQH

### **Weekly Newsletter Friday 10th January 2025**

You can also see more information about us on our school website: [www.langho-st-leonards.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.langho-st-leonards.lancs.sch.uk)

Follow us on facebook: [Langho and Billington St Leonards Facebook page](#)

### **Worship**

The term began on Monday with a worship focussing on the wonder of God's Creation, in particular birds as we learned about the RSPB annual birdwatch. Class worship also focussed on wildlife and how we could be stewards of God's creation.

Mrs Pountain introduced us to Blackburn Diocese's Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal and we reflected on the power of prayer. We rounded off the week with a Worship Together video on the story of the Flight from Egypt.



### **Football County Finals - Friday 17th January**

On Friday next week both our A team and our Girls' football team will be travelling to Fleetwood to represent the Ribble Valley in the Lancashire county football finals. We are extremely proud of all of these children who qualified for these finals by winning their respective Ribble Valley Cups.

Good luck to you all - we know you will represent St Leonard's and the Ribble Valley magnificently.



### **Spring Parent/Carer evening 11th February 2025**

Bookings are now open for Parent/Carer evening via the school website.

### RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch 2025!

We have registered to take part in the Big Schools Bird watch ran by the RSPB and would like to ask for your help to attract as many birds to our school grounds as possible. Please help us by sending in any bird feeders or even a bird table you may have and are not using. Or make your own at home with your children and send them in. Please may we request that any bird cakes are made of seeds and not peanuts as we are a 'nut free' school!







26-28 January 2024

Follow the link below if you are interested in taking part in this year's Big Garden Bird watch at home.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

### This Week's Attendance

	<b>Class</b>	<b>% Attendance this week</b>
	Kingfishers	98.2
	Robins	97.1
	Falcons	96.3

## Diary Dates

Spring 1	
Thursday 23rd January	4-6pm Ribble Valley Sportshall athletics - Y5&6. (further details to follow)
Thursday 30th January	KS1 trip to Imagine That
Thursday 30th January	Year 5 Mayan Archeology day (further details to follow)
3rd- 9th February	Children's mental Health week - activities in school
Friday 7th February	Y6 Young Voices Concert at Coop Live.
Friday 7th February	12.30-2.30pm Ribble Valley Sportshall athletics - Y5&6. (further details to follow)
Tuesday 11th February	Parents' Evening (further details to follow)
Friday 14th February	3.30pm School closes for half term
Monday 24th February	8.40am School opens after half term

## **Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices**

### **Information for Parents**

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period<sup>1</sup>. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

### **Absences can have a lasting effect on learning**

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning

This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

<sup>1</sup> A school week is any week in which a school meets at least once.



# SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

**EAST**

**Do you have a child starting  
primary school in September 2025  
and living in Lancashire?**

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning  
the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call **01254 220747**.

**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

*Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces) and click 'school admission policies'.*

## **Reading and Reading Record Books**



From babies to children in their early years and all the way through to early teens, reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on children's lives. Children who read: are more likely to overcome disadvantages caused by inequalities; are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem; are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum and are more likely to develop empathy and creativity.

Shared reading creates opportunities for joint attention and emotional closeness between a child and their parent or carer. It is also a wonderful way to be involved in your child's education and development.

Reading is important to us at St Leonard's and is really important that children read, not only at school but at home as well. With this in mind, please could all parents and carers ensure that children read at home daily. When your child has read at home, please initial their reading record book so that we can see how regularly they are reading at home.

Please ensure that your child's reading book and reading record book are in school with them every day as teachers will be using and checking them regularly.

## **Parents with Prams**

If you are bringing or collecting a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, and you have a pram with you, please wait at the double white doors near the ramp that goes into the hall. In the morning, there will be a member of staff to ensure that your child reaches their classroom and at the end of the school day, staff will bring your child to you as soon as they are able.



## **Crossing Patrol**

Unfortunately there will be no crossing patrol attendant for the foreseeable future. Please take extra care when using pavements and crossing over the road outside school and drive with extra consideration.

If anyone is interested in taking over this position, please contact Mr Simmons on 07831 309599.

If your child uses the crossing after school, please make sure they know that they are able to ask a member of staff in school or the office to assist them crossing the road.

## **Considerate and careful parking and driving**

It has been witnessed by staff and reported to us by other parents that cars are stopping in the middle of the road outside of school to allow parents / carers / children to get out of cars resulting in cars being held up.

We realise that at times the school run and finding a parking space can be stressful - however please can we ask that when parking, dropping off, collecting and driving around school that all drivers are considerate and kind and respectful to each other as role models to our children.

We are very lucky to be able to use the top car park at Mytton Fold - please use this space as we have been asked not to use the community centre car park unless you are accessing Coolkidz.

### Appointments during school hours

Can we please request that routine appointments, i.e. dentist, doctors, opticians etc, be made for outside of school hours where at all possible. Evidence of the appointment, e.g. a letter, appointment card or email, should be provided if this is unavoidable during school hours. Thank you for your support with this.

### Holidays in term time

We have had a very large number of holiday requests for holidays to be taken in term time. We would like to stress the importance of not taking children out of school for holidays.

Please note that without at least 2 weeks prior notice and for all absence requests of more than 5 days (10 sessions) in a term or 7 days (14 sessions) over 2 consecutive terms, results in fines being issued from the Local Authority. This fine is currently £120 per child per parent (Including step parents) but is increasing in August 2024 to £160 per child per parent (Including step parents).

### Little Lennie's Nursery

If you have a child born in April 2024 onwards and you would like a place in Little Lennie's Pre-school from September 2027 onwards, could you please contact Mrs Bolton in the school office.

Little Lennie's is proving to be extremely popular and we are full with waiting lists for both 2024/25 and 2025/26 intakes. We are already taking bookings for 2026/27 and even 2027/28!



#### **Facebook**

Our facebook page includes regular updates - please follow and like!

[Langho and Billington St Leonards Facebook page](#)

### **Help, Advice and Support**

Please see the new page on our school website for links and phone numbers for a variety of sources of help and support such as community groups, housing, domestic abuse, mental health and food banks. <https://www.langho-st-leonards.lancs.sch.uk/parent-info/help-and-support>

We have also updated our **Health and Wellbeing** page with links to help your child regarding mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.langho-st-leonards.lancs.sch.uk/parent-info/health-and-wellbeing>

New links will continue to be added. If you know of any other support sources that we could add, please contact the office staff.

### Nut Free School



Please remember to be careful when packing children's lunches and snacks sent into school. Products containing any type of **nuts are not allowed** due to children with nut allergies in school. Kinder Bueno and Nutella snacks contain hazelnuts - please leave these at home.

Many thanks for your cooperation

### Named Items PLEASE HELP!

Children take off cardigans and jumpers and leave them around school or the playground, if they are not named then it is almost impossible to reunite them with the correct owner. **Please** ensure that **ALL** items belonging to your child are clearly named **using a ball point pen in the label** (including coats, and lunch bags/boxes) to ensure that any mislaid items can be promptly returned. Thank you.

There is an awful lot of lost property accumulation again - please check under the canopy (KS2) or outside of Eagles classroom (KS1) at the end of each school day if you have lost something.

### Absence and Lateness



This is a further reminder that the School day begins at 8:55am. The gates are now open from **8:40am and shut at 8:55am**. Please do your best to get children to school for 8.40am, when the gates open. Once the gate is shut, please take your children to the office through the main school entrance.

**To safeguard all of our children effectively, ALL CHILDREN arriving after the gates are shut MUST BE SIGNED IN BY THEIR ADULT at the front office.**

## Jules School Special

Join us this January, here at Jules restaurant where we've got an exciting deal for the whole family to enjoy!

Enjoy any hand-stretched pizza from our main menu for just £9.95 each, on Wednesdays & Fridays from 3:00pm – 5:30pm.

Check out our pizzas here: <https://www.myttonfold.co.uk/jules-restaurant/>

Book your table with us today on: 01254 240 662



**ANY  
PIZZA  
£9.95\***

**GET A  
PIZZA'  
THIS!**

jules

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