

ST LEONARDS, HEATH & REACH, VA LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS NEWSLETTER 2024/25 NO 1



WELCOME BACK

I hope that you all had a lovely Summer. Please find attached the diary dates from this term. There will be a lot of attachments and information with this newsletter, and that I apologise for. It is always a busy one at the beginning of a new term. It won't always be so much all at once.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please find attached a copy of our Attendance Policy, please do take some time to read this.

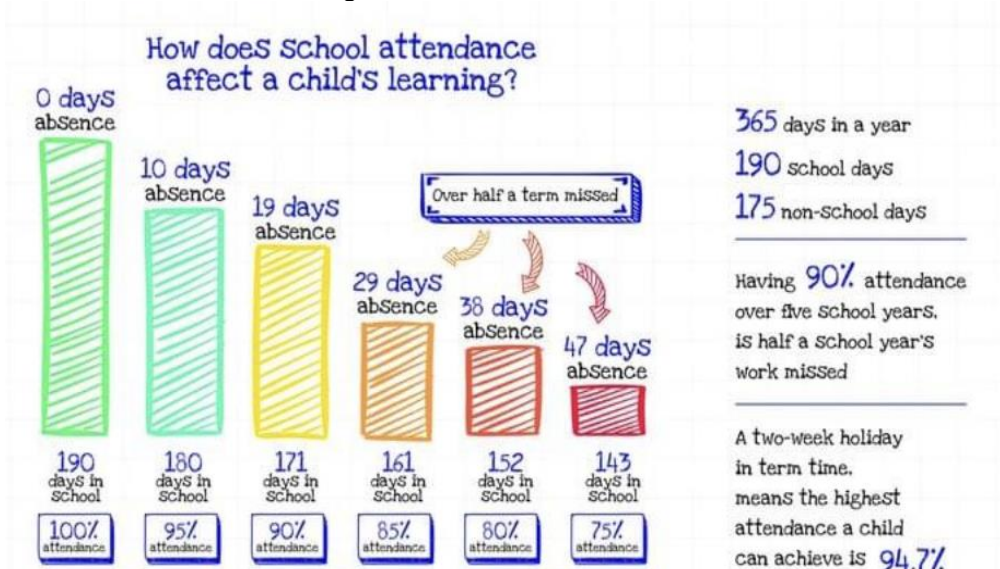
It has been updated to reflect the new legal framework on school attendance found below:
[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance)

The new legal framework states that parents are expected to:

- Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies.
- Notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g. sickness).
- Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance (leave of absence forms can be requested via the school office).
- Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

Our school attendance average for 2023-24 was 94.34% which is slightly lower than the National average of 94.5% and is also lower than our neighbouring lower schools. We want to improve our attendance average this year.

Our school attendance target is 96%.



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If your child is feeling poorly please read the following guidance before making a decision about whether to send them to school [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Holiday absences will **not** be authorised (unless exceptional circumstances- please see policy guidance) and if your child has had 5 days of unauthorised absence or more, a fixed penalty notice will be issued. (I would like to clarify that there is no benefit to schools when issuing penalty notices as the local authority receives the payment. However, the guidance is clear and the local authority closely monitor school attendance to ensure schools are following this). All schools are now required to submit attendance returns to the DfE and the Local Authority on a daily basis.

Thank you for working with us to support your child's attendance this school year. If you have any concerns or questions please do contact the school office.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Curriculum overviews will be sent by email today so that you are kept informed about what your child is learning in school this term.

PTA AGM

Our PTA is getting smaller and we really need your support, now more than ever. We rely on PTA funding to support our school budget. Look at what we did last year:



Discos, movie nights, fetes & fayres, non- uniform days, mulled wine watching the nativity, cups of tea and cake, ice lollies after school - it all makes lower school different to the rest of your child's education.. Our PTA events help to make our school such a lovely, happy community. Please do come along to our AGM on Monday 30th September 7pm here at school to help us to plan another fantastic fundraising year ahead.

Thank you!

SCHOOL VALUE

Our school value this half term is Generosity. Please find attached some home/school information so that you can explore our value at home.



CHURCH SCHOOL INSPECTION

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) is the Church of England and Methodist Church's outworking of the requirements of section 48 of the Education Act 2005. It is a key element of the life of all Church of England and Methodist schools in England. SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

We are expecting our SIAMS inspection this academic year. For this reason, I would like to ask you to fill in this short Google Form so that we can gather your views to inform our self-evaluation. You do not have to complete all questions if you are unsure but it would be great to get your feedback. Thank you for your time.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpE93nJftaJ0vStpPolkfbgOgZPFdt26_OTJz4SqSSh6fxoQ/vi/ewform?usp=sf_link

SCHOOL CAR PARK

Please could I remind parents that they **should not** drive up the school drive and park in the staff car park at normal drop off and pick up time.

Only disabled, staff and school transport access is permitted. If you have a disability and you are unable to walk up the school drive please do speak to the school office.

These restrictions are in place for the safety of our children. Thank you for your understanding.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS HOMEWORK

If your child has taken part in the Summer reading challenge or has written a holiday diary please do send these into school on Fridays so we can share in celebration worship (renamed from Awards Assembly)

CLUBS

Please find attached a clubs letter for booking teacher led clubs this term. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis so please return the form to the school office asap.

Please also find letters attached about Karate, Dance club and French club.

Unfortunately, after many years of running an after school club for us MKDons have no availability for an after school football club this term. We are currently looking at alternatives so that we are still able to offer a football club. Please do let us know if you have any recommendations.

Dance Club at St Leonard's Lower School is run after school on Wednesdays & Fridays. It is run by former professional dancer & choreographer, Rachel Kenning, and will be open to all children on the following days/times:

Class 2, 3 and 4: Wednesday afternoons 3.30-4.30pm

Class 4+ and Class 1: Friday afternoons 3.30-4.15pm

Term Dates for 1st Half Term Block:



Class 2, 3 and 4: Wednesday 11th Sept – Wednesday 23rd Oct (7 weeks)
Class 4+ and Class 1: Friday 13th Sept – Friday 25th Oct (7 weeks)

TO BOOK: Please click on the following link: <https://bookthatin.com/link/StLsTBDanceClub>

TRIALS: If you would like your child to come along for a trial, please email rachelkenning79@gmail.com

The sessions will take the format of a fun and funky dance class. Each session includes fun exercises to build skill & knowledge and a routine to music the children already love! The classes are designed to be inclusive for all, regardless of prior experience and provide a great fun introduction to dance.

DINNER MONEY

Dinner payments for children in years 3 and 4 this half term are £2.53 daily, £12.65 weekly or £98.67 for the half term. Please make payment in advance on school money.

YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Year 4 children will start swimming lessons on Monday next week. A separate letter has been emailed to year 4 parents.

PANTOMIME

At the end of this term the whole school will be going to the Dunstable pantomime. Please find a letter attached with further information.

RM UNIFY APP

You may have received information from the school office about RM Unify. If you download the App you can access your child's information so you can notify the school office of any changes.

Sarah Bowley
Headteacher



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH NEWS

<https://saintleonardschurch.com/>



St Leonard's Church, Heath & Reach

You can watch our services on You Tube
[St.Leonard's. Heath and Reach - YouTube](#)



ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE in St Leonard's Church

🌻 Saturday 24th September 11-12noon 🌻

🐕 Bring your pet, photo, or just come and enjoy the service

🐱 During the service there will be a talk by Sarah from The Wildlife Trust

🐾 Collection will be for The Wildlife Trust

☕ Refreshments available after service ☕

For more information contact Rosemary Young 01525 237345 or Vera Paul 01525 375095



Parent Insight



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Supporting your Neurodiverse Child/Young Person Digital Booklet Parent Insight

Find out more about the Supporting your Neurodiverse Child/Young Person Digital Booklet.

How this booklet can support families with a child with neurodiverse needs.

A booklet written by parents for parents.

Presentation from Katie Gibbons from SNAP.

Wednesday 18th September 4-5pm

Register for your place via the link below:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/8b61949d-f0f3-4856-b6a7-57bca3f8d9fb@21d8a1ee-0787-4374-b259-4e87058aff15>

Please contact us by email if you have any further queries:
earlyhelp@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central
Bedfordshire



Families In Focus CIC
LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER



Transforming family life with empathy

For parents of children with Autism & ADHD

Aged 4 to 10 years in
Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

This training will help parents develop:

- Empathy to stay emotionally regulated and guide children through heightened emotions, thoughts and behaviours.
- Understanding more about Autism & ADHD.
- Help children to manage their anxiety.
- Help to reduce aggressive behaviours.
- Build stronger family connections.

A FREE interactive, online course

Monday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.30pm
September 9th, 16th & 23rd

To book your place, email Francine and Lesley:

bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk
www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

Understanding Emotions and Behaviour of Children that are Neurodiverse (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)

The workshop is suitable for parents/carers of children aged 0-12 with emerging needs, on the pathway to assessment, have a diagnosed condition and/or identified special educational need.

The workshop will cover:

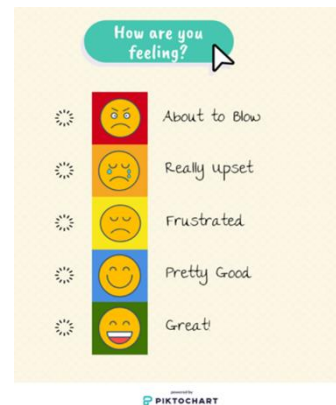
Brain development

Self-regulation and co-regulation

Visual aids

Strategies to support behaviours that are difficult or dangerous

The workshop will be run by the Early Years SEND Advisory Team and Children Centre staff (0-12 Family service)



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Tuesday 17/09/24 12.30-14.30 (Online- Microsoft Teams)

To register for this event, follow the below link

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/af48e840-2bc2-4e7b-85e6-c9f1d39aac18@21d8a1ee-0787-4374-b259-4e87058aff15>

Wednesday 2/10/24 9.15- 12.45

Dunstable Children's centre (Face to face)

Unfortunately, no children can attend

To register for this event, follow the below link

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/94e0e4ad-23a4-49c3-9579-6cc2716b5a99@21d8a1ee-0787-4374-b259-4e87058aff15>

Wednesday 6/11/24 16.00- 18.00 (Online- Microsoft Teams)

To register for this event, follow the below link

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/db5b51fa-7000-4b01-b298-a059e04a238f@21d8a1ee-0787-4374-b259-4e87058aff15>

Understanding and exploring 'masking behaviours' of children that are Neurodiverse (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)



The workshop is suitable for parents/carers of children aged 0-12 years old with emerging needs, on the pathway to assessment, have a diagnosed condition and/or identified special educational need.

The workshop will cover:

Neurodiversity



How children may present when they are 'masking'
Strengths and challenges
Strategies to help children to manage 'masking'
(At home and possible reasonable adjustments for school)
Signposting to other services, resources and further reading

Monday 21.10.24 9.30- 12.00

Face to face at Flitwick Children Centre, families from all areas of Central Bedfordshire are welcome to attend (unfortunately, no children can attend)

Thursday 21.11.24 16.00- 18.00

(online via Microsoft teams)

All workshops are booked via the self-registration links; if the event is fully booked, you can email Jade to request you are added to the waiting list for any cancellations.

If you are attending an online workshop, you will be sent a Microsoft Teams link at the time of registration. If you book the face-to-face workshop, you will be sent a reminder the week before with more details.

Please note all workshops have limited spaces, if you book on and then no longer can attend, please follow the confirmation email to cancel your place.

[Book 21.10.2024 session](#)

[Book 21.11.2024 session](#)

SEND Local Offer

Parents/carers, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can now browse and scroll through our newly improved [Local Offer website](#), a 'one stop shop' for all local SEND advice, guidance, and support services. You can also [Sign up for our SEND news email service](#) to receive fortnightly updates, or follow us on [Facebook](#)

[SEND Local Offer](#)



Family Information Directory

The Central Bedfordshire's Family Information Directory contains lots of information about childcare settings, local and national organisations that offer support and advice, children's centres and local activities in Central Bedfordshire.

[Family Information Directory](#)

