



# The Leys Primary & Nursery School Newsletter

Learning Today ...Leading Tomorrow

## Friday 1st October 2021

Star of the Week	
Class	Pupil
Jeffers	Iris
Murphy	Joseph
Kerr	Charlie
Waddell	Lenny
Donaldson	David
Gravett	Unique
Dahl	Amber
Freedman	Grace R
Strong	Jamaima
Morpurgo	Paris Narh
Lewis	Jake Loureiro
Tolkien	Jayson
Rosen	Leo
Shakespeare	Kimberly
Dickens	Edward
Kipling	Nikodem

### Friends of The Leys PTA

#### Key Dates

AGM: 5th October at 6.30pm  
 Non uniform day 21st October £1  
 Disco: 15th October at 5 to 8pm  
 Non uniform 11th February £1  
 Disco: 25th February 2022 at 5 to 8pm  
 Non uniform £1 1st April  
 Non uniform £1 1st 27th May  
 Summer Fair: 1st July 3.15 to 5.30pm

### DATES COMING UP!

4.10 to 8.10- Black History Month  
 5.10 PTA online meeting at 6.30 - 7.15pm  
 8.10 Nursery Workshop for Parents  
 13.10 Year 6 Manor Meeting at 6pm  
 14.10 Year 6 Manor Meeting at 9 am  
 11.10 to 15.10 Harvest collection  
 15.10 Stay & Play - Reception pupils & Parents  
 15.10 -Autumn Disco 5 to 8pm  
 19.10 to 20.10- Parent Consultation  
 19.10 Year 5 Class Assembly at 9.15 am  
 20.10- No PENS day  
 21.10 Google classroom workshop for parents  
 21.10 - Non uniform day £1- pupils break up for half term  
 22.10- Inset day  
 1.11- Pupils Return  
 1st - 5th Nov Y6 Manor Adventure  
 4.11 Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip  
 15 -19th Anti Bullying Week  
 15.11 - Odd Socks Day  
 22.11 - 26.11- STEAM week & Bikeability Week  
 2.12 Aladdin Theatre in Y3-6 AM  
 6.12 - Occasional Day- School is closed  
 7.12 Year 5 Trip Exo Mars discovery centre  
 9.12 Puss in Boots Pantomime YR-Y2 PM  
 10.12 Enterprise Day  
 13.12 - 17.12 EYFS & KS1 Christmas productions week & Junior Church Service  
 17.12 Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day  
 21.12- Last day of term - 1.30pm finish

Attendance awards	Donaldson
Headteacher Awards	
Reception	Lexi- May Joseph
Year 1	Aiden, Dhyay
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	Alex, Oliver, Leo
Year 5	Kai, Zack
Year 6	Abigail

### Parent Partnership

**Class assembly- Year 5 on 19/10/2021 at 9.15am**  
**Google classroom workshop for all parents- 21/10/21 at 9 am- 9.30am**  
**Nursery Workshop- 8/10**  
 This has now changed to Stay & Play- see details below  
 9 am to 9.20am

**Stay & Play 9am to 9.30am**  
 These sessions are aimed for EYFS parents only, please drop your child at their classroom door and then make your way to the main sports field- where Mr Byford will meet you. After registration, all pupils will join their parent/ carer to complete some fun activities.

**Friday 8th Oct- Nursery**  
**Friday 15th Oct- Reception**

## CLASS OF THE WEEK



### Year 2 Donalson & Gravett

On Thursday, our super- troopers in Year 2 made their way to Whipsnade Zoo. Our staff and parent- volunteers were immensely impressed by our pupil's behaviour and conduct. This has been their first trip since starting The Leys!

So well done to both classes for representing our school to the bestest standards.



Writer of the Week

Dahl

In Dahl class this week we have been researching Nepal ready to write a non-chronological report. I have been particularly impressed with *George's* writing.

### Flag

The flag is the only flag in the world that is not rectangular or square.

### Milk River

Nepal has a river called the milk river, it runs so fast and cold which makes it white. It is also full of crocodiles.

### Mount Everest

Mount Everest is the coldest and most rocky mountain on the planet.



WELLBEING



You may have noticed this week that a survey by NHS Digital, found that the mental health of children and young people has not improved since last year's lockdown. It found **one in six children in England had a probable mental disorder in 2021** - similar to 2020, and up from one in nine in 2017. Nearly 40% of 6 to 16-year-olds said they felt their mental health had become worse over that time. Girls were more affected than boys. The figures are based on questions asked to more than 3,600 children and young people in 2017, 2020 and March 2021 about their family life, schooling and feelings.

**The NHS Digital report** authors said it was difficult to work out how much of the change in children's mental health was because of the pandemic - but they found those with a probable mental health disorder were more likely to be worse off. These children and young people were more likely to feel lonely, experience sleeping and eating problems and miss school. They were also less likely to have a stable family life.

If you have concerns about your child, please check out our website for ideas about how to support them, speak to your GP or our mental health leads.

Empathy

Inclusivity

Respect

Aspirations

Determination

Empowerment

## Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and British Values

This week we have seen a great improvement in the children taking part in the daily mile. The children have started to see their own progress and are noticing changes in their fitness levels after just one month! Speaking to some of the year 6 children about this, they said how they enjoy the daily mile as it gives them a chance to 'reset my head' and 'get focused for my maths lesson'.

Keep up the good work children!

### *Book Sleuths in a Bind: A Very Puzzling Case at Stevenage Library*

A brand-new theatre show for families is coming to Stevenage Library this October half term. The Book Sleuths, Sam and Ally, have a real mystery on their hands, and need the audience's help to crack codes, unravel riddles and pore over puzzles! Only by working together can the 'mysterious mystery' be solved. Designed for families of all kinds with children aged 7 to 11, this show is being created exclusively for Hertfordshire Libraries by local professional theatre company Teasel Productions, funded by Arts Council England.

*Book Sleuths in a Bind: A Very Puzzling Case* will be at Stevenage Library on Monday 25 October and Saturday 30 October, both performances at 2pm.

The performance on Monday 25 will be signed. A qualified British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter will be interpreting the play as it is being performed.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for children, and are available now from Stevenage Library and online: <https://bit.ly/HertsLibBookSleuthTour> (where you can find further details and the full tour schedule). After both performances the audience will have the opportunity to 'Meet the Cast', with a question and answer session.



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## Pupil Parliament

This email from Mrs Maisey (Y2) captures the success of Pupil Parliament along with hard work and maturity demonstrated by all Year 6 pupils

*Dear Dr Christie, just a quick email to say how amazing the year 6's were for pupil parliament. They presented really well and were so lovely with the other children. A real asset to you all. Thank you Mrs Maisey*



## Reception Stay & Play



Last Friday, Reception parents joined their child on the school field to take part in a number of fun and active activities. Mr Byford had some time to talk to parents/ carers about how to support pupils to keep fit and healthy. Parents / carers then had fun supporting their child to complete a number of fun activities. This was a great success- thank you to all the parents who came along!

The session was a big success and we have now booked a date for Nursery on Friday 8th October at 9.00am.

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As part of our Harvest celebrations this October, we are supporting the Stevenage Foodshed by organising donations from our school community. Please send in the following items into school that have been listed by Stevenage Foodshed: Pasta sauces/ Soups/ Tinned Meat/ Tinned Fruit/ Tinned Veg + Potatoes + Tomatoes/ UHT Milk/ Biscuits /Juice/Squash/ Sugar/ Shower gel/ Shampoo & conditioners/ Toilet roll



**We are collecting Morrison school vouchers!**



### Christmas Production events

Please note these events are subject to change should the local area see a rise in cases.

10.12 Enterprise Day

Nursery - Mon 13/12/21 - 09:30 & 14:00

Rec - Weds 15/12/21 - 09:30 & 14:00

Year 1 -Thurs 16/12/21 - 9:30 & 14:00

Year 2 - Tuesday 14/12/21 - 9:30 & 14:00

17.12 Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

17.12 Junior Church Service

**More details to follow**

### Autumn Parent Consultation

These meetings will be taking place on Tuesday 19th October from 3.30pm to 7pm and Wednesday 20th October from 3.30pm to 5pm.

We will be offering both face to face or phone call meetings.

**More details to follow**

### 2022-23 EYFS Tours

*Please come along and join us on our full tours of the school on;*

*9am on 13th October 2021*

*9am on 10th November 2021*

*1.30pm 18th November 2021*

*1.30pm 2nd December 2021*

*Contact the school office to book a place.*

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# Global Goals Project

UPDATE

For the past three years we have participated in the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme which linked us up with Kathmandu English School in Nepal. Unfortunately, we were not long into the project when the Covid pandemic took hold which somewhat impeded the opportunities for international collaboration. We are now pleased to say, pupils in both schools have returned and we have been making up for lost time this week with children learning more about Nepal across the school.

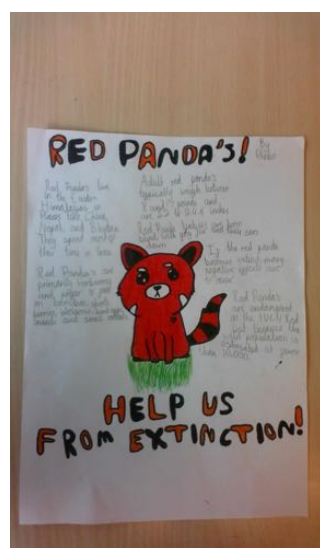
In Year 1, the children learnt about the Nepali flag - what the unique shape and colours symbolise and had fun recreating it with paints.



In Year 2, they have been learning about animals and their habitats and went on a very exciting trip to Whipsnade Zoo where they kept a close eye out for animals from the region around Nepal.

Whilst in Year 4, the children learned about the Gurkhas and the historical connection with Britain. In pairs, one child took on the role of a young Nepali boy and the other was the Galla Wala (Gurkha recruiter). They interviewed one another to learn more about life in a small Nepali village; what the incentives were for joining the Gurkhas and the qualities that the recruiter was looking for.

Children in Year 5 researched animals from the Nepali region that are on the endangered list and created eye-catching posters to highlight their plight.



In Year 6, a live link was set up via Zoom with Kathmandu English School where pupils got the chance to interact in real time. Questions were shared in advance and answers to these were shared on the live link. This proved very successful and we agreed to arrange further Zoom get-togethers later in the Autumn term.

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## *Our Community Achievers*

### *Aiden Cheung*

Completed The Library Reading Challenge. Well done for your hard work!



### *Abigail John*

Abigail took part in Tom Moore's Swimming challenge, was awarded 4 swimming medals and achieved 4 personal bests! Smashing news!



### *Kai Cheung*

Kai took part in the Tom Moore Swimming Gala on Sunday. It was his first swimming gala and he medalled in 4 of his races! An amazing achievement!



## HOLIDAYS



Please be aware that the government continues to regard holidays during term time as unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances to consider. Parents who decide to take pupils on holiday during term time may incur a fine.

Please note that the May half term break has been extended on both sides to allow more time for travelling for planned holidays.

Friday 27th May 2022 Occasional Day due to Queen's Platinum Jubilee- school is closed

May half term Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June Inset Day- School is closed

Pupis return on Tuesday 7th June 2022

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Don't forget to book on

 **The Leys Fun and Games Club! Breakfast & After-School Club**

#### BREAKFAST CLUB

- Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am to 8:45 am and includes breakfast.
- Breakfast club costs £3.50 per child per day.
- Children must be signed into the club by whoever is bringing them to school.
- Children should not be dropped at the gate and sent into the club on their own. Breakfast on offer includes such choices as: cereal, toast, croissants, fruit, and fruit juices.

#### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

- After School Club runs from 3.15 to 6.00 pm in two sessions:
- 3.15 - 5:00pm Session A £7.00 per day per child
- 3.15 - 6.00 pm Session B £8.50 per day per child
- A snack such as sandwiches, wraps, cheese, biscuits, and fruits are served to all children attending the after-school club.

Planned activities available may include:

- Creative art and crafts activities - painting, drawing, cutting, sticking and model making.
- Free play - activities chosen by your child.
- Imaginative play - dressing up and role play.
- Messy play - sand water clay and dough
- Outside play - depending on weather.
- Sports activities - organised by our PE staff.
- Various special events - disco, face painting, cooking, movie & popcorn

## Term dates 2021-2022

#### AUTUMN TERM

Start of term: 2 September 2021

**Inset day: 1 September**

Term: 2 September -21 October

Half term holiday: 25 October

2021 - 29 October 2021

**Inset day: 22 October**

Term: 1 November -21 December

**Occasional Day: 6 December**

Christmas holiday: 22 December

2021 - 5 January 2022

#### SPRING TERM

**Inset day: 5 January 2022**

Term: 6 January - 11 February

Half term holiday: 14 February

2022 - 18 February 2022

Term : 21 February-1 April

Easter holiday: 4 April 2022 - 18

April 2022

#### SUMMER TERM

Term: 19 April - 26 May

Half term holiday: 30 May 2022 -

3 June 2022

**Inset Day: 6 June**

**Occasional day: 27 May**

Term: 7 June-21 July

**Inset day 22 July**

Summer holiday: 22 July 2022 - 31

August 2022

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