

St Lawrence CE Primary



NEWSLETTER



'Being the best we can be with God, knowing that with God all things are possible'

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, we have had a lovely week in school and the spotlight has been on reading. Mrs Moore and Mrs Standish have been observing reading lessons, talking to children about their reading, and looking through guided reading books. It is clear that there is a love of reading at St. Lawrence with children engaged and interested with the texts that they are reading in class and at home. The **VIPERS** approach is our new approach to teaching the six domains of reading to aid comprehension. This week you should have received the new bookmarks in your child's reading



journal that will support you when you read with your child at home. As we are unable to hold our usual parent workshops, we will be sending out a reading leaflet on ways you can support your child at home. We do hope that you find this most useful. See attached appendix. The triangulated approach with school and home working together with the child at the centre, is most effective in children becoming confident, fluent readers.

You will have had notification that following Telford and Wrekin advice we have taken the decision not to invite parents to the church to watch the Christmas Nativity. I hope you understand that the decision has not taken lightly and it has been made in the best interests of the children and their families. As a solution focused school, we have decided to hold 'carols around the tree' instead, this will be on the same day and times. The children will still practise and perform their Nativity play and we shall record it so you will be able to watch it from the comfort of your own home.



Staff are trying their hardest to adhere to guidelines, keep the community safe whilst ensuring children have all the wonderful Christmas experiences that they deserve. With this in mind, may I draw your attention to the **'Parent Code of Conduct Policy'** and in particular the 'Think before you post' section within the document. I do understand the frustration of parents but try to avoid placing negative comments on social media sites. Thank you to those parents in our community who have reached out today with supportive messages.



St Lawrence CE Primary



Dogs Trust

On Wednesday, Class 3 and 4 had a visit from the Dog's Trust where they learned all about the importance of looking after dogs correctly. The session consisted of the children being presented with a variety of scenarios and suggestions about what to do in these situations. Our visitor was most impressed with the children's behaviour and their engagement with the session.



Dog's Trust

This week, Class 3 and 4 were visited by Alison from the Dog's Trust. She spoke to the children about how we should treat and take care of dogs through discussion activities and role play.

The children were already equipped with good knowledge on how to look after our dogs which impressed Alison and therefore moved up our learning behaviour tree.

We thanked Alison for her super lesson and as usual, children welcomed our visitor and reflected the St Lawrence Way.



Choir

On Thursday this week, Mrs Barker started the KS2 choir. The children were fantastic and brought enthusiasm, excitement, and Christmas spirit! They were singing Christmas classics to get us in the festive mood! Mrs Barker was extremely impressed with the children's vocals and was proud of their confidence when children volunteered to sing solos. Well done choir, a super start!



St Lawrence CE Primary



A message from Mr Al-Asmar

Mixed Year 5/6 Football

Lilleshall 3 – 0 St Lawrence CE



Tuesday's match was a frustrating game for our children; they played superbly but just couldn't score. The first half of the game saw our children concede early but then play dominant football for the rest of the half. Unfortunately, when chances came our way, we did not convert them. Myself and Mr Matthews counted at least 7 chances in the first half alone that we have been finishing off in training on a Wednesday. Despite it not being the result we wanted, the team were excellent and we continue to see the progress and development of the children. Well done on working hard for each other and being resilient.

We have started to discuss creating mini-leagues with other schools for both of our 5/6 teams that would start after Christmas.

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers/grandparents who have supported the children over the last few months.

Acts of Kindness

In Early Years we are passionate about providing hands on and practical learning opportunities for the children. We would therefore like to say a big thank you to Miss Fisher's partner David for creating this fabulous Maths area for the children which really enhances our outdoor learning area. The children loved using it this week to explore the composition of 5 and were all very excited to have a go. As I am sure you will all agree, it looks very inviting and it will be a great resource for class 1. Thank you David! He is now busy planning another addition to enhance the learning of phonics outdoors



Hamper donations



A very big thank you to everyone who has contributed items for the hampers that are going to be raffled during our "Carols around the tree" on Wednesday 8th December.



Achievements beyond the classroom



Darcey and her cousin Elena have taken part in the dance Festival at Coventry for the last two weekends.

They won 3rd place for their Character ballet Hansel and Gretel yesterday.

They were up against some very good dancers so are really proud of themselves



Celebrating Success this week!



AWARDS THIS WEEK GO TO....

St. Lawrence Values Award

Our St. Lawrence Values Award is an award nominated by the pupils and teachers to reflect the school's values represented in the 'St. Lawrence Way'.

This week Mrs Moore has nominated Oliver F for displaying a mature attitude and thinking of others before himself.

Class One

Theo for super listening and concentration.

Class Two

Max M : being enthusiastic about his learning.

Millie : working hard on her English target.

Class Three

Olivia : for working so quietly and always following the St Lawrence way

Alexis : for working extremely hard all week!

Class Four

Keira: Fantastic effort in maths

Abigail: Fantastic effort working with multiplication in maths



Head teacher's Award

Isabella J : for her fabulous "Talk Time "based on Beowolf

House point winners

This week the winning house is **St Andrews** with a staggering **93** points

Well done to **Daisy** the House Captain and everyone who is a member of this house

HOUSE NAME	POINTS THIS WEEK	POINTS IN TOTAL
St David	52	649
St Patrick	54	649
St Andrew	93	777
St George	75	693

Reading leaflet for parents

St. Lawrence CE Primary School



'Being the best we can be with God, and knowing that with God all things are possible'

**"READING IS A PASSPORT
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES."**
- MARY POPE OSBORNE



Help your child read at home,

Reading at St. Lawrence CE Primary School

Intent - We believe that the teaching of reading is integral to a child's understanding and appreciation of the world around them; a platform that allows our children to see beyond what they know, share in cultural experiences and develop the vocabulary they need to effectively express themselves. At the heart of our reading curriculum is our drive to foster a love of reading, enriching children's learning through carefully designed teaching activities and access to thought provoking texts. Reading is at the very heart of our curriculum and we strongly believe it is the window to the world.

Implementation - Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will ever learn. It underpins everything else, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We also want your child to develop a real love of reading and for them to want to read for themselves. This is why we work hard to make sure children develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

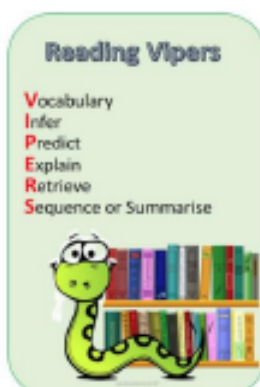
As children begin their reading journey, the reading curriculum is delivered through Read, Write, Inc synthetic phonics as a vehicle for word reading. This is rolled out in to Key Stage 2 as an intervention for those children who are not secure with some of the more complex sounds taught in Set 3 of the phonics programme.

We provide regular whole class 'Book Talk' sessions from Reception to Y6 to promote the comprehension strand of reading. Opportunities for independent reading and hearing quality texts read aloud every day are integral to our reading curriculum. We work with children to develop their understanding of texts through guided reading and whole class comprehension activities and have recently introduced 'Reading Vipers' to focus on the key areas of comprehension.

READING VIPERS

Reading VIPERS is our new way of supporting children with their reading comprehension skills using the six domains of reading. All children will be working on VIPERS during class reading, whether it is reading as a class, in a small group, or one-to-one with an adult. It would be fantastic if parents could also be referring to VIPERS when they listen to their child read at home. Each of the letters stand for one of the key reading skills that will enable our pupils to become strong, confident readers. You will find a VIPERS bookmark in your child's reading diary that will give you some examples of the types of questions to ask when your child is reading their book.

VIPERS posters are displayed in all classrooms. Up to the end of Year 2, the 'S' stands for 'Sequence'. Once children move into Year 3, the 'S' stands for 'Summarise', which is a more demanding skill.



In Class 1 we use VIPERS but children recognise the letters by the different types of dogs to help them remember.



Question Openers

VIPERS can be used on any text that a child is reading, as well as on pictures, picture books and films! When any adult is listening to a child read, all they have to do is think of questions about the book, picture or film that cover all of the VIPERS. You can use the VIPERS bookmark attached to your child's reading record for examples of questions. Below are examples of how you can create your own questions. How to use VIPERS questions with a page of a picture book ...

How to use VIPERS questions with a page of a picture book ...

I Is a ship's horn loud or quiet?

E Explain what you would do if you found a penguin on your doorstep.

S In what order did they ask these people for directions?

V Which word is a place where ships 'park'?

R How did they get down to the harbour?

P Who do you think they ask next?

and here is an example of how the VIPERS prompts could be used to create questions for a longer text ...



It was the closest kingdom to the queen's, as the crow flies, but not even the crows flew it. The high mountain range that served as the border between the two kingdoms discouraged crows as much as it discouraged people, and it was considered impassable.

More than one enterprising merchant, on each side of the mountains had commissioned folk to hunt for the the mountain pass that would, if it were there, have made a rich man or woman of anyone who controlled it. The silks of Dorimar could have been in Karselaire in weeks, in months not years. But there was no such pass to be found, and so, although the two kingdoms shared a common border, nobody crossed from one kingdom to the next.

Even the dwarfs, who were tough, and hardy, and composed of magic as much as of flesh and blood, could not go over the mountain range.

This was not a problem for the dwarfs. They did not go over the mountain range. They went under it.

Three dwarfs, travelling as swiftly as one through through the dark paths beneath the mountains:

"Hurry! Hurry!" said the dwarf at the rear. "We have to buy her the finest silken cloth in Dorimar. If we do not hurry, perhaps it will be sold, and we will be forced to buy her the second finest cloth."

"We know! We know!" said the dwarf at the front. "And we shall buy her a case to carry it back in, so it will remain perfectly clean and untouched by dust."

The dwarf in the middle said nothing. He was holding his stone tightly, not dropping it or losing it, and was concentrating on nothing else but this.

The questions for this section could be:

V: Which word shows that it was impossible to cross the mountain range?

P: What do you think the next paragraph will be talking about?

R: Where would someone in this story get silk from?

S: What purpose does this paragraph serve? How does it do it?

E: Explain why the author chooses not to name the person that they are buying the silks for.

I: Tell me something about the stone that the dwarf is carrying. Use evidence from the text.

Helping your child at home

You, as a role model in your child's life, play a vital part in developing your child's attitude to reading. To improve your child's chances of becoming a keen and confident reader, you must demonstrate an enthusiasm towards reading and encourage your child to take an interest in print around them.

- On packaging, labels and instructions;
- On information boards and menus;
- Comics, websites, magazines, newspapers, recipe books, birthday cards, and even shopping lists!

How you can support your child at home:

- Reading should be enjoyed. Find a comfortable place to read, be patient and praise often.

Make reading a daily routine:

- Listen to your child read aloud daily, aiming for 10 to 15 minutes a day.
- Read to your child, enjoying books together and modelling to them how an expert reads.

Remember praise is a great motivator! Always remind your child how well they are doing and how proud you are of their reading. Reading is a journey to be enjoyed!



The ability to read fluently and with comprehension (understanding) is the most fundamental skill that children will learn. Children will first need to 'learn to read' in order to be able to 'read to learn'.

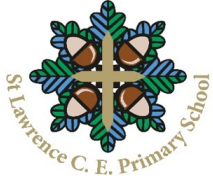
- 1** Discuss the text ('book talk')
New book: Look at cover. What is it about? Who is the author? What is the title? What type of book is it?
Partially read book: What have you liked so far? In 5 sentences, explain to me what has happened. Who is the main character? etc.

- 2** Listen to your child read
You can:
 - Praise and encourage often
 - Check understanding of unfamiliar words and explicitly teach new vocabulary.
 - Encourage them to re-read words and sentences to improve accuracy and expression.
 - Model reading with expression and ask your child to copy.
 - Ask questions to check for understanding.They can:
 - Sound out unfamiliar words in chunks and then **blend** them.
 - Use pictures as clues to unfamiliar words, or infer more information about the text.

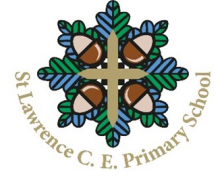
- 3** Question for understanding
Ask a question or two (don't make it a chore!)
See some example question stems below.

- 4** Discuss the text ('book talk')
 - 👍 What did you like about it? Why?
 - 👎 Was there anything you disliked? Why?
 - ❓ Were there any parts that confused you?
 - 🧩 Did it remind you of anything else you read?

'Reading and Writing floats on a sea of talk'



St Lawrence CE Primary



Dates for your diary.....

DECEMBER

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Friday 3rd December | - Movie night run by PTFA from 5.30pm |
| Wednesday 8th December | - Carols around the Christmas tree
9.45–10.15 : Classes 1 & 4
10.45–11.15 : Classes 2 & 3 |
| Thursday 9th December | - Theatre trip : Classes 1 & 2 |
| Tuesday 14th December | - Theatre trip : Classes 3 & 4 |
| Wednesday 15th December | - Christmas dinner / Jumper day |
| Thursday 16th December | - Santa visit |
| Friday 17th December | - Last day of term |

JANUARY 2022

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Monday 3rd January | - PD Day |
| Tuesday 4th January | - Back to school |





PTFA Corner.....



Polite reminder from the Friends

Smartie Tubes

These were sent out last week we are kindly asking for them to be preferably filled with 20p's but with COVID-19 many people do not carry cash so any coins would be greatly appreciated.



Big Christmas PTA Raffle.

Each ticket costs £3 and gives you 12 chances of winning up to £5000. 40% of all money raised comes direct to the Friends of St Lawrence and will help us continue to support the children. The QR code to purchase tickets is below and also accessible by the school gate.



Hamper raffle

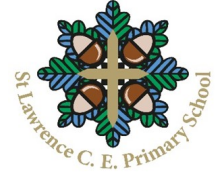
Raffle tickets for the children and adults hampers are available from Mrs Dodswell at the gate at the end of the school day. Tickets for the Adult's hamper are £1 each and the Children's hamper are 50p each.



Christmas Film Night 3rd December.

Children are invited to attend school in their PJ's for a free film and snack night. Children are welcome to bring a teddy to share their evening. Please let the school office know of any dietary needs or allergens.





Santa's sleigh is back!

Newport Rotary Lite's hugely popular Santa sleigh is back!

Santa and his sleigh helped by the Lite elves will be at half a dozen locations between now and Christmas

Obviously, Santa and the sleigh team need to operate in a way that is safe for everyone in these Covid times, so this year the sleigh will be in specific places at specific times and will not be touring the streets as previously. We want everyone coming to see him to be safe, and do not want Santa needing to use the "Elf Service"

Friday, 26th November the sleigh will be at Newport's Christmas Lights switch on at 6.00 pm On **Saturday, 4th December** the sleigh will be at the Sutherland Arms at Tibberton from 10 am until 12 noon, and outside the Village Hall in Edmond from 12.30 until 2.30 pm.

Sunday, 5th December the sleigh will be outside Waitrose from 10 am until about 4 p.m. – thank you Waitrose for your support

Saturday, 11th December Santa and the sleigh will be on the Square in the middle of Newport from 10 am until 2 pm

Sunday, 12th December Santa and the sleigh will be at the car park next to the school in Lilleshall from 10 am until 12 noon, and outside the Village Hall in Church Aston from 12.30 until 2.30 pm

Saturday, 18th December, [the sleigh team](#) will be outside Waitrose from 10 am until about 4 pm
On **Sunday, 19th December** Santa and the sleigh will be at The Square in Newport again from 10 am until 2 pm

People will have the chance to see Santa and take photos, and we will very grateful for any donations for local good causes – and being Rotary, you know every penny goes to charity.

We're hoping everyone has a brilliant time when they come to see Santa and his Lite Sleigh.