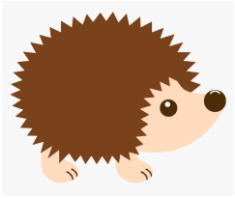


The Leighterton Leaf

Rooted in optimism, ambition and kindness, we grow together.

Term 1, Newsletter 3 (2026-2027)
Thursday 17 September 2026

Value in focus: Gratitude
Gratitude is more than saying "thank you." When it becomes an attitude — a consistent way of orienting your attention toward what's good— it reshapes how you move through your day, your relationships, and the harder moments in life. ***The Positivity Team***



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Governors

This week's news

We were pleased to welcome Sally Robins, the new primary school improvement lead for the Athelstan Trust, into school on Tuesday. Sally spent time in all of the classrooms. She saw wonderful play in Apsemore class, maths in Barnhill and Key Stage 2, reading fluency in Boxwell and a grammar writing lesson in Ridge. Sally's report reinforces everything we know about learning at Leighterton:
'Children are happy and seem quietly confident and settled in their classes. There was a tangible calm and productive and warm atmosphere…Relationships between children and staff seemed very warm and secure and each child is clearly known and cared about personally…This is a team who care about their school, the children and one another which is a real strength!'
We are excited to be working alongside Sally and other primary schools in the Trust to further develop our practice and so will be working closely with her over the course of this year.

Phonic Workshop for Parents of children in EYFS and Year 1

We are running a parent workshop to help give you an understanding of some of the areas we are teaching in school. If you are unable to make the workshop, please contact Miss Tetlow for further information.

- Tuesday 22 September, 9.15am – Teaching Phonics and Early Reading (Miss Tetlow and Miss Roberts)

Medical Information

Please make sure you inform us if your child has a medical condition and needs medication. We are in the process of writing Health Care Plans for any child who needs regular medication. There is new guidance around allergies with which all schools need to comply. Please inform us of any allergies your child may have.

- If your child has asthma and needs an inhaler, please make sure that we have one that is in date in school.

School Gate

There will be some mornings currently when there will be no member of staff at the car park gate. Dawn will be by the playground gate for any messages and to ensure every child arrives safely onto the playground, so please feel you can walk your child under the shelter to the gate on these occasions. Apologies for any inconvenience during this time.

Book Fair

We are hosting a book fair after school from today until Friday. Please join us for a browse of the interesting selection of books. The school benefits from every book purchased.

Young Voices
We are excited to be taking part in our second Young Voices concert. Information went out to Key Stage 2 children about this opportunity this week. Please return slips by Friday 25 September so we can finalise choir numbers as spaces are limited. Miss Bence and Miss Roberts will be practising the songs and dances with the children at their lunchtime club. All Key Stage 2 are welcome to join the club, even if your child is not going to the concert.

Govilon Residential – Wednesday 7 October to Friday 9 October
Year 5 and 6 are soon heading off on their residential trip to Govilon Learning and Activity Centre. The children are in for an action-packed few days on the edge of the beautiful Brecon Beacons National Park. Kit lists went home this week. Please make sure that medical and consent forms are returned as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the visit, please contact Mrs Ward or Mrs Holian via the school office.

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day
Friday 9 October is World Mental Health Day and to mark this occasion we are inviting the children to come to school wearing one yellow item with their school uniform like yellow socks or a yellow jumper. To find out more about Young Minds and their work to support children's mental health, please visit Hello Yellow | World Mental Health Day | 9 October | Young Minds

Bikeability – Monday 12 October -Wednesday 14 October
Having recovered from their residential, the Year 6 children will be taking part in Bikeability the following week. There is a separate letter coming home with further information.

Harvest Festival – Thursday 22 October, 2.15pm
You are welcome to come along and enjoy our Harvest Festival which takes place on Thursday 22 October. We are planning to support the local foodbank once again. Further details to come about our Harvest collection.

Operation Encompass
Our school takes part in Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is a police and education information-sharing partnership which helps schools provide timely support to children and young people who may have been affected by domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can have a significant impact on children, even when they are not directly involved in an incident. Children may see or hear abuse, witness the impact afterwards, feel frightened or unsettled, or be affected by changes in family circumstances.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse. Current safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, reinforces the importance of early identification, timely information sharing and effective multi-agency support.

Operation Encompass is now a statutory duty for police forces in England and Wales. This means that when police attend a domestic abuse incident where a child is connected to the household, the police will notify the child's education setting. The information shared will be relevant, necessary and proportionate. It will usually be shared with the school before the start of the next school day so that we can offer appropriate support as early as possible.

At our school, notifications are received by nominated Operation Encompass Key Adults, who are members of the safeguarding team. The Key Adults have appropriate safeguarding knowledge and will handle information sensitively, securely and confidentially. Support will be considered in a child-centred and proportionate way. This may include a quiet check-in, reassurance, flexibility during the school day, support with routines, or referral to additional help where this is needed.

Taking part in Operation Encompass supports our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It helps us work in partnership with parents, carers, police and safeguarding partners so that children can receive the right support at the right time.

If you would like to speak to someone about Operation Encompass, or if you would like any further information, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Rushton, Mrs Holian or Mrs Laver. Please be aware that Operation Encompass is a police-led process. Any complaint about the police information-sharing process should be directed through the police complaints procedure. Further information about Operation Encompass is available at http://www.operationencompass.org/

ICON Week - ICON: Babies cry, you can cope

Next week is ICON Week. ICON Week brings together healthcare professionals, charities, organisations, and families across the UK to raise awareness of infant crying, support parents and carers, and help prevent abusive head trauma in babies. Attached to this newsletter are some leaflets and advice about infant crying.

Athelstan Trust Vacancies

There are currently two central team vacancies. Please click the links to find out further information – IT Support Technician and Senior Finance Officer (based at SWR)

Open Morning

We are holding our open morning on Thursday 15 October. This is a drop-in session between 9am and 11.30am – no need to book. The older children will be giving guided tours and there will be coffee and biscuits available in the hall afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Rushton
Executive Headteacher

Attendance Information

98.06%

Thinking Corner

Think about someone you admire.
What is it that you admire?
What qualities do they have?
What could you learn from them?

Term1 Clubs – w/c 14 September. *Please note, school run clubs do not run in last week of term*

MONDAY	**French Club**	3.10 – 4.00pm	R & Y1. Please see separate email for info (there is a cost)
TUESDAY	**Atlas Sports – Multi Skills**	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y1 and 2
WEDNESDAY	**Cross Country**	8.00 – 8.30am	Y3 - 6
	Dance Club	12.30 – 1.00pm	Open to all Year 1 classroom
	Art Club £5 contribution per child	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y3 - 6 *NOW FULL* Y2 classroom (max 12 pupils)

THURSDAY	**Drama Club**	3.10 – 4.00pm	Y1 & 2 Please see separate email for info (there is a cost)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Please note that there sometimes may be changes/additions at short notice)

Wednesday 16 – 18 September	Book Fair after school
Friday 18 September	Celebration assembly
Tuesday 22 September	9.15am Phonics & Early Reading Workshop for parents of EYFS and Y1
Wednesday 23 September	Henry the Horse visit for Y3-Y5
Tuesday 29 September	School photographs (all classes)
Friday 2 October	Flu Immunisation (all classes)
Wednesday 7-9 October	Y5/6 residential
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Mental Health Day – come wearing yellow!
Monday 12 – 14 October	Y6 Bikeability
Thursday 15 October	Open Morning
Thursday 22 October	2.15pm Harvest Festival

We are O.A.K.

Optimism – We are optimistic.

We persevere to improve.

Ambition – We are ambitious.

We aim high and do our best.

Kindness – We are kind.

We use kind words and kind actions. We respect ourselves, others and our world.

Rooted in optimism, ambition and kindness, we grow together.

Community News

(Please note that the school does not endorse external providers and families should enure they are satisfied will all necessary safegurding checks before engaging with any advertised services below.)

NSPCC





How can the NSPCC help?

The NSPCC Helpline can be contacted seven days a week, online or on the phone. Our child protection specialists are here to listen, offer advice, and support to take action if needed.

Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect, or are worried about a child and not sure what to do, we have advice for you.

It doesn't matter who you are — a parent, a family member, friend, neighbour or professional. Anyone can contact us for advice.

Do I have to say who I am?

There are lots of reasons why people want to be anonymous. You don't have to tell us who you are, where you live, or share your contact details. If you do choose to share any of these with us, you can ask us not to share them with other agencies – like the police or social services. However, if you told us something that made us worry that you or a child is being hurt or at risk, we would have to report this.

Call **0800 800 5000**
Visit **nspcc.org.uk/helpline**
Email **Help@NSPCC.org.uk**

