 **St Leonard’s Catholic Primary School**

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**Dear parents and carers,**

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school recently at our first open mornings of the year. From the feedback I have received, you have found it useful to meet your child’s teacher in person and hear more about the school day. I am looking forward meeting our newest parents and grandparents of our Reception children on Monday (after the Year 2 open morning); you will love spending time with your child and seeing first hand what they actually do in school.

**School kitchen**

We are having an issue in the school kitchen which has resulted in a greatly reduced menu option being available. This will only last a couple of days and, in the meantime, chef Lewis is devising different ways to provide fun and tasty lunches to all of our children. The only real impact of this is for parents in Reception class who were due to join the children for a cooked lunch on Monday – this is now a teddy-bear picnic!

**Vaping**

Please note that vaping is not allowed on any part of the school grounds, including the drive way into school, for the same reasons as the ban on smoking cigarettes. Unfortunately, more and more children and young people are using vapes without any knowledge of the consequences this could have on their health. The following e-leaflet for parents and carers contains tips on how to speak to children and young people about vaping:

* [Vaping and e-cigarettes - The facts for parents and carers.](https://www.wakefieldscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11435-SFS-%E2%80%93-A5-4pp-Vaping-Leaflets-Wakefield.pdf)

If you’d like to know more about vapes and the pressures young people feel to vape or smoke, visit these websites:

* [Vapes | FRANK (talktofrank.com)](https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes)
* [Smoking | Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/smoking/)

**Parking**

I have received a large number of complaints from our local residents and a number of photographs showing our parents parking fully on the pavement next to the Church grounds. Can I please remind you that you could incur a fine of £70 for causing a block on a pupil pedestrian area. The situation has been referred to the local authority and we are expecting traffic wardens to begin to monitor the area – please avoid a fine by parking considerately and thoughtfully.

**Holidays**

We all enjoy our holidays. For many of our children and family the break together is the opportunity to spend quality time together. However, holidays taken during school term time have a significant impact on a child’s overall academic progress and I urge parents to stop the practice of term time holidays. The new regulations around fixed penalties came into force in August and will be imposed for anyone who does not follow these.

**Well done**

Last Friday evening, our school choir performed at the Sunderland Minister, along with the Fishburn Brass Band, to raise funds for Marie Curie. The children sang beautifully and were a great credit to you and to Miss Ashleigh Hayes, who leads the choir. Thank you to the children, our families who supported this, Miss Hayes and Miss Brickle for attending and the organisers of such a special event for a worthy cause.

**Fr Humble**

Please keep Fr Humble in your prayers during his current ill health. We wish him a speedy recovery.

***Dionne Dunn***

***Headteacher***

**Newsletter no.**