



St. Luke's Newsletter No. 2, Friday 16th September 2016

Message from Mrs Catterson

Maple class went out on their first trip on Monday – a fabulous tennis event, where they had the opportunity to meet professional tennis players and see the famous Davis Cup. The children had a wonderful time and were truly inspired by the experience. Redwood class children have been working on a superb art project as part of their history work on the Stone Age. Having studied cave paintings, they have created stunning replicas. Our youngest members of the St Luke's community are really starting to feel their feet this week and I was lucky enough to see them having a super time in PE with Mrs Blake and Mrs Wesson.

What a lot of lovely feedback I have had from the children and staff about our new lunch and playtime sports coaches! Now, as well as the usual playground activities organised daily by our play leaders, Mrs Gooding's art and craft station in KS1 and all the equipment available to aid physical and imaginative play, we have the additional support and expertise of our Cambridge United coaches. Each day children are trying out new sports in both playgrounds both at break and lunch. These are offered under the expert care of trained coaches. I am so happy to see this flourish so quickly, and strong relationships are being formed with our new members of staff.

Alongside our teacher-led music curriculum, the music lessons for years 1, 4 and 5 will be starting again this term. This is a service we buy into from trained music teachers employed by the Cambridgeshire Music Service to give pupils the best start at music. We are excited to welcome them into year 1 on Friday, year 4 on Tuesday and year 5 on Friday. Year 3 will also benefit from this next half term, and Year 2 in the spring term.

This time of year is always very busy for us in school with new children, new families, new teachers, and new government guidance (and increasing legal requirements). Members of staff work long and hard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their pupils, as well as to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum, standards and safeguarding are met. A lot of transfer work takes place at the end of the summer term to try to make the transitions as smooth as possible for children. However, like all adults, children are not always fond of change and can find these first few weeks back a big contrast to the freedom and enjoyment of the summer. If you are concerned about your child's well-being please talk to their class teacher so they can support this transition.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has signed and returned the two forms from last week. If they are still at home, please try to get these into school on Monday.

Just a quick update on the star badges for house points. We have amended the total required for each star to 30 house points; this was due to teacher and TA feedback that 20 would make them worry they were giving out too many and they didn't want to restrict their praise. The badges have now arrived and I can't wait to award the very first bronze star!

We love to have families stay and play in the playground after school, but please be aware that the school passes over responsibility for the children's care and safety at 3.15pm. We do not manage either of the playgrounds and if you do stay to play, we cannot accept responsibility for them after this time. On this note, we have had a query about whether children are allowed to climb the trees. We know that the children have enjoyed this activity and will be sad to lose it; however, following updated guidance the school has had to take the decision that, in light of our health and safety responsibilities and in line with Ofsted requirements, children are no longer allowed to climb any of the trees on site. In addition, the reason for the change in the 'sticks' rule came on the back of six months of the children not being able to just use the sticks for den building. After a catalogue of accidents, including to the face and eyes, we made the decision that we had no choice but to say no sticks at all. Whilst I know this disappoints some children, their safety must come first.

Our school meals are provided by Cambridgeshire Catering Service (CCS) and this term they launched a new three week menu. There are lots of new dishes and our caterer and I have been carefully monitoring how the new meals are going down with the children. On the whole, the children are really enjoying their lunches, but together we are aware that there are a couple of items that the children do not like and the kitchen will respond to the feedback and amend this for the next rotation of the menu. It has been noticeable that there is a significantly smaller amount of food thrown away by the children and we are working hard to ensure that lunchtimes are enjoyable, sociable occasions for everyone; this includes promoting good table manners and using our inside voices when we are in the hall.

St Luke's offers an open door policy and we actively encourage you to come and talk to us about any concerns. If you have worries about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to come and see us. Teachers are available to talk between 8.45 and 8.55am and directly after school, or by appointment through the office, and are always willing to

discuss any concerns. I am also available for a chat in the playground most mornings before and after school; if you can't spot me your end I am likely to be in the other playground, so do come and find me. Alternatively, you can always telephone or email me directly at head@stlukes.cambs.sch.uk. To provide another opportunity for you to share your thoughts about school, we will be re-starting the Parent Forum. Dates for this will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Literacy/Phonics Evening

We will be holding a Literacy/Phonics information evening in school next Tuesday 20th September to share with you how we teach Literacy to your children throughout the school. The event will be held at 5:30 for years 3 to 6, and 6:00 for years R to 2. Refreshments will be served from 5:15. Please attend if you possibly can as this will help you to understand what we do at school, and more importantly, how you can support your child at home. (A similar Maths evening will be held on Monday 7th November.)

Lay Chaplain/Pastoral Assistant

Starting next week, Nicola Simmonds will be working in school as a lay chaplain/pastoral assistant every Wednesday. Part of her role is to offer pastoral support to the whole school community, which includes parents/carers and their families. If you feel you would like to meet her or chat about something (other than education at the school), please phone or email her via the office.

MacMillan Fundraiser

Nicola is organising a fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer Support on Wednesday 28th September. Please support this event by coming along to the staffroom at 9:00am and/or 2:30pm for coffee/tea and cake. There will be a money donation box – please give as generously as you are able to. Please contact Nicola if you are able to provide a cake/buns/scones, or help on the morning/afternoon.

Gold Book/Class Sharing/Class Showcase Assemblies

These will take place on Friday afternoons at 2:45 – parents are very welcome:

Autumn Term

23rd September, year 1/2

30th September, years 3/4

7th October, years 1/2

14th October, year 5 or 6 (Showcase)

21st October, years 3/4

4th November, years 1/2

11th November, years 5/6

18th November, years 3/4

25th November, year 5 or 6 (Showcase)

9th December, years 5/6

Spring Term

6th January, years 3/4

13th January, years 5/6

3rd February, years 1/2

24th February, years 3/4

24th March, years R/1/2

Summer Term

21st April, years 5/6

28th April, years 3/4

5th May, years 1/2

12th May, years 3/4

19th May, year 3 or 4 (Showcase)

26th May – years 5/6 + Ramadan

23rd June, year 3 or 4 (Showcase)

30th June, year 5/6 + Eid and International Day of Friendship

10th July, years 1/2

Attendance

Attendance currently stands at 95.55%. Our target for the academic year is 96%.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in music lessons offered during the school day by peripatetic teachers, please contact the teachers directly:

- Ben Piper (drums), 07932 953917, bpiper30@gmail.com
- Natalie Routledge Thurman (piano/keyboard, recorder, voice, clarinet, flute, trumpet/cornet, trombone, saxophone, theory), 07871 877205, free2bfr33@yahoo.co.uk

For year 6 parents/carers: Admission to Secondary School – September 2017

Applications for year 7 places can be made online or paper copies of the admissions form are available from the office. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2016; applications received after the deadline will not be processed until after the national offer date of 1st March 2017.

Dates for 2016-17

Autumn Term:

- Tuesday 20th September, Literacy/Phonics Information Sessions for parents: 5:15 tea/coffee; 5:30 for years 3/4/5/6; 6:00 for years R/1/2
- Wednesday 28th September, MacMillian Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea Fundraiser
- Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th October, Bikeability for some years 5/6
- Friday morning 7th October, Individual/Family group photos
- Tuesday 11th October, year 5/6 trip to Ely Cathedral
- Tuesday 11th October, Parent Consultations – further details to follow
- Wednesday 12th, Parent Consultations – further details to follow
- Thursday morning 20th October, trip for last year's School Council to meet the Mayor
- Thursday 20 October, 1:45 Harvest Festival at St Luke's Church – parents welcome
- Friday 21st October, Stand Up to Cancer Fundraiser – further details to follow
- Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October, school closed for the half-term holiday
- Monday 31st October, Big Write Day with Prize-giving assembly at 2:45 (parents welcome)
- Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th November, Life Education Centre here
- Thursday 3rd November, Flu Vaccinations for years 1-3
- Monday 7th November, Maths Information Sessions for parents: 5:15 tea/coffee; 5:30 for years R/1/2; 6:00 for years 3/4/5/6
- Tuesday afternoon 8th November, Outreach visit from Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for year 1
- Wednesday 9th November, year 1 visit to Fitzwilliam Museum
- Wednesday 9th Wednesday, Open Morning – tours at 9:30 and 11:15 – please book at the school office
- Friday 11th November, Story-telling Day for KS1
- Friday morning 11th November – Year 5 visit to Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Friday 25th November – Christmas Tree Festival at St Giles' Church – one class to visit – tbc
- Tuesday 6th December – Craft Day
- Week beginning 12th December – Christmas Parties week
- Wednesday 14th December – 1:45 Year 3/4 Nativity Dress Rehearsal – parents welcome to attend if unable to attend performance
- Wednesday 14th December – Reports to parents
- Thursday 15th December – 6:00 Year 3/4 Nativity Performance
- Friday 16th December – Christmas Lunch (pupils only!)
- Friday 16th December – Christmas activities afternoon
- Monday 19th December – 9:30 Carol Concert followed by tea/coffee/mince pies
- Monday afternoon 19th December – Christmas Quiz
- Tuesday 20th December – RE morning (Christmas as a festival)
- Tuesday 20th December – 1:45 Christmas Service at St Luke's Church – parents welcome
- Tuesday 20th December, 3:15 term ends

Spring Term:

- Thursday 5th January, 8:55 term begins
- Wednesday 11th January, Swimming for year 5, and year 6 non-swimmers at Parkside Pool – time tbc
- Thursday afternoon, 19th January, pantomime for whole school here (Dick Whittington)
- Week beginning 23rd January – Maths Week
- Friday 27th January – 2:45 Maths Assembly – parents welcome

- Week beginning 30th January – Interfaith & Harmony Week
- Tuesday 31st January – Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 1st February – Parent Consultations
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February, school closed for the half-term holiday
- Monday 20th February, Big Write Day with Prize-giving assembly at 2:45 (parents welcome)
- Week beginning 27th February, Book Week
- Thursday 2nd March, World Book Day
- Friday 3rd March – 2:45 Book Week assembly + awards – parents welcome
- Week beginning 13th March, Science Week
- Tuesday 14th March, Science Day
- Friday 17th March, 2:15-2:45 Parent Drop-in
- Friday 17th March, 2:45 Science Assembly – parents welcome
- Tuesday 21st March, Mother’s Day Lunch
- Wednesday 22nd March, Reports to parents
- Friday 24th March – Red Nose Day
- Thursday 30th March, 9:15 Information meeting for parents about year 3/4 residential trip
- Friday 31st March, 1:45 Easter Service at St Luke’s Church – parents welcome
- Friday 31st March, 3:15 term ends

Summer Term:

- Wednesday 19th April, 8:55 term begins
- Wednesday 26th April, Swimming begins for year 3/4 at Parkside Pool
- Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th April, year 3/4 residential trip to the Kingswood Centre at West Runton, Norfolk
- Monday 1st May, school closed for the May Day Bank Holiday
- Monday 8th to Friday 12th May, year 6 SATs week – **please do not book any medical appointments/holidays for your children during this week!**
- Week beginning 8th May, no music lessons this week
- Monday 15th to Friday 19th May and Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May, year 2 SATs will be carried over these two weeks (not every day!) – **please do not book any medical appointments/holidays for your children during these weeks!**
- Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June, school closed for the half-term holiday
- Week beginning 5th June, Environment Week
- Monday 5th June, Big Write Day with Prize-giving assembly at 2:45 (parents welcome)
- Thursday 8th June, 9:15 Information meeting for parents about year 5/6 residential trip
- Tuesday 13th June, Father’s Day Lunch
- Monday 19th June, 6:00 Meeting for new Reception parents
- Tuesday 20th to Friday 23rd June, year 5/6 trip to Ilam, Derbyshire
- Wednesday morning 28th June, Move-up Morning 1/2
- Wednesday morning 28th June, 9:30-10:30 Visit for new Reception pupils 1/2
- Monday 3rd July, Craft Day
- Wednesday morning 5th July, Move-up Morning 2/2
- Wednesday morning 5th July, 9:30-10:30 Visit for new Reception pupils 2/2
- Thursday 6th July, Sports Day (back-up day tbc)
- Friday 7th July, 9:15 Music Assembly
- Monday 10th July, school closed for staff training
- Wednesday 12th July, 2:00 Year 5/6 Production Dress Rehearsal – parents welcome if unable to attend Performance
- Thursday 13th July, 6:30 Year 5/6 Production Performance
- Friday 14th July, Reports out to parents
- Friday 21st July, Leavers’ Lunch
- Friday 21st July, 1:45 Leavers’ Service at St Luke’s Church
- Friday 21st July, 3:15 term ends
- Friday 21st July, 3:15 PTA Tea Party