



St. Luke's Newsletter No. 3, Friday 23rd September 2016

Message from Mrs Catterson

Another action packed week draws to a close and we really enjoy being able to share some of the best bits in Gold Book Assembly on Friday afternoons at 2.45pm. If you haven't joined us yet, you are missing a treat! We celebrate birthdays, house-point winners, Gold Book certificates, attendance, and each week two different classes share their highlights of the week. We look forward to welcoming you to join us at these weekly assemblies whenever you can. Don't forget to check the schedule (see page 2 of newsletter) to see when your children's class will be sharing!

I have to mention Mrs Corlito's highlight of the week. Using their Fiver Challenge profits from last term, Maple class had decided to go to Shepreth Wildlife Park. Rest assured, this was not just a 'jolly', but was also linked to their science work. They had the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the residents and also learned all about the world invertebrates. Mrs Corlito was given special birthday privileges to have a cuddle with Pepy the skunk, whilst the class sang her Happy Birthday – an experience I am sure none of them will ever forget! Now, you may be thinking that this was hardly a treat, but having met the gorgeous Pepy myself, he is one of the super stars of the Park. Cute, super soft and certainly not stinky, Pepy now has Mrs Corlito as his number two fan (after me)!

A big thank you goes to all our teaching staff who ran our annual reading and phonics evening this Tuesday, sharing how reading is taught through the school, ways that we can work together to support children's reading development and the importance of comprehension, as well as word reading. The feedback from the families who came has been really positive and we hope that these evenings continue to be a useful forum to ask questions, share information and understand the ways that we are teaching subjects in school. Sadly, the reading evening was not as well attended this year and feedback on how we could better support parents to attend or access the information shared would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, to help facilitate information sharing, the slides from the evening will be posted on our website, so keep an eye out if you are interested. We are fortunate to have a staff of teachers who are always looking to develop their practice and enhance the learning experience for their classes. We are very excited to be currently beginning work alongside some other schools (across the world) to further develop our strategies to teach the all important skills of reading for meaning and pleasure. More information about this will follow at the end of the term when the project is further underway. In a similar vein our Maths evening is scheduled for Monday 7th November. We hope to see you there.

In other news, I thought I would tell you a little more about our new teachers, Miss Cooper and Mr Yeeles. Miss Cooper has a special interest in drama and will be taking a leading role producing the Nativity this year. Mr Yeeles has taken on the much needed role of ICT whiz in school. He is extremely knowledgeable about all things computing and has already wowed us all with his skills in Excel, as well as leading some excellent drama based staff training on several key aspects of computing. It's fantastic to have such a great range of experience and interests amongst our staff, who all bring different ideas and enthusiasms to continually help us enrich and broaden the way we teach the national curriculum. Watch this space for interesting and exciting things to come!

On the subject of computing, it is perhaps worth flagging up some e-safety messages. Keeping tabs on what your child is accessing on their computer, tablet and phone can be challenging, but there is an awful lot of unsuitable material out there and it is so important to teach our children how to be discerning and stay safe. Please could I urge you to check that children are not accessing age inappropriate social media such as Facebook and Instagram. There is some brilliant advice on <https://www.nspcc.org.uk> about keeping children safe online.

Playing to the strengths of our staff team, we are thrilled that Ms Murray has taken over our singing assembly and is using her musical skills to make this even more exciting, fun and varied than before. Joining together to sing can be such a valuable experience and a real pleasure for many children. To add to the excitement Carolina Termonia has been helping Miss Murray to develop the children's sense of rhythm by introducing the opportunity to play along with the singing on the drums. Many children are champing at the bit to have their turn to have a go at drumming and with the singing this really sounds amazing – a real treat for a Tuesday morning. In addition, Ms Murray is organising an after school choir club (**details on page 3 of newsletter**) and had we are really looking forward to hearing them perform later in the term.

Like the MPs, I thought it might be a good idea to try having something like an open surgery. This will be a relatively informal affair with coffee, tea and biscuits and provide a time when I will be available should any parents wish to come and see me to discuss any concerns or share any positive feedback that they may have about any aspect of school. Sessions have been arranged as follows:

- Monday 17th October 2-3pm
- Tuesday 8th November 9-10am
- Wednesday 7th December 2-3pm

Please don't forget however, that there are also plenty of other ways to feedback and talk with staff – you don't have to wait. If you have information, either positive or negative about any aspect of school or home life that needs sharing, 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 listen and work together to best support your children. 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.

Lay Chaplain/Pastoral Assistant

Nicola Simmonds is 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.

'Birthday Celebrations for Miracle Triplets'

You may have seen the article in the Cambridge News last week entitled 'Birthday celebrations for miracle triplets'. Two of the triplets, Patrick and Sara are in Oak Class and a copy of the article is up in the classroom. Instead of birthday presents the family asked for donations to be made to the neonatal intensive care unit at the Rosie via Addenbrookes Charitable Trust as a thank you to the staff who helped them in the early stages of the triplets' life. If anyone would like to make a donation and add to the money already raised, please visit justgiving.com/fundraising/TheMaguireTriplets.

Gold Book/Class Sharing/Class Showcase Assemblies

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

Autumn Term

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
 14th July, years 1/2

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

Attendance

Attendance has risen slightly this week and stands at 96.1% (our target for the academic year is 96%).

Choir

Choir is now open to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. It will take place every other Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 starting on 5th October. We are working towards a few different events: the Christmas Carol concert, singing in the community and a possible collaboration with other schools still to be confirmed. Other dates this term: 19th October; 9th November; 23rd November; 7th December. Look forward to seeing you all there! Ms Murray

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. Please speak to Nicola in the office if you need any help with your application.

Greater Cambridge City Deal

Getting your children to and from school easily and safely is a key concern for any parent or guardian. The Greater Cambridge City Deal is a local partnership which, as part of a wider programme, is seeking to improve travel options for people who travel to, from or around Cambridge. We are currently seeking people's views on our plan to tackle congestion in the city, and to significantly improve passenger transport, cycling and walking journeys. It is important for us to understand how parents are currently affected by congestion, and the impact that our proposals may have. Please tell us your views on these proposals which include:

- Better bus services and expanded use of Park & Ride
- Better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- Improved public space and air quality
- Peak-time Congestion Control Points (PCCPs)
- A Workplace Parking Levy
- On-street parking controls
- Smart technology
- Travel Planning

Find out more online and complete the survey at www.gccitydeal.co.uk/congestion. How to get in touch:

email city.deal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, or

phone 01223 699906

via our social media channels: www.twitter.com/gccitydeal and www.facebook.com/gccitydeal

Paper copies of leaflets (including surveys) can be found at over 330 distribution points across the area including all Cambridgeshire libraries and are also available from us on request.

Half Term Event

We are pleased to announce our next football camp which will take place on Monday 24th October from 9:00 to 16:00 at St Luke's Primary School Barn and Field. Cost for the day is £15. All your child needs is a packed lunch and a water bottle; shin pads, boots, warm clothing are optional but advised. Fun training, matches, tournaments and even surprises to kick start your half-term holiday. To book a place, email michaelbriggswork@gmail.com or phone 07754490946. Look forward to see you! Michael Briggs Coaching

Dates for 2016-17

Autumn Term:

- Wednesday 28th September, MacMillan 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