



St. Luke's Newsletter No. 8, Friday 4th November 2016

Message from Mrs Catterson

Welcome back! Everyone looks rested and ready for our new half term. I wanted to kick off this newsletter celebrating our first awesome Big Maths Day. A massive thank you to Mrs Proietti who planned the day's events and also the incredible launch assembly on Monday morning. For those of you who were unable to attend the awards assembly in the afternoon, Mrs Proietti clearly has hidden dramatic talents; she was a most convincing Cornish Pirate Captain! The children had a swashbuckling day of mathematical adventures as they worked hard to find treasure using co-ordinates, create symmetrical flags, solve pirate word problems, devise cunning sea biscuits (free from weevils) and read maps. The whole school went totally pirate and maths mad for the day. On the back of this success, we hope to run similar events.

This week, the Life Education Centre Bus has visited and all of the children have had the opportunity to visit. For example, Redwood class had a very exciting session learning all about their brain, whilst Holly class children explored their feelings. Having stimulating and exciting adventures like this makes learning engaging and memorable.

Thank you very much to everyone who joined in with Stand Up to Cancer Day. We raised £81.50 and there were some truly spectacular hair styles!

Just a quick reminder to all users of the school car park – the area is monitored by CCTV and we are aware of a few bumps and scrapes! Please be mindful that of other people's vehicles. Whilst on the subject of the car park – please could we ensure that the disabled park spaces are kept free for the appropriate users.

Don't forget that on Monday we are holding two parent information meetings on how we teach maths. The first is at 5.30pm for KS1 and the second at 6.00pm for KS2. Tea/Coffee will be available at 5.15pm. This is a great opportunity to come along and find out how calculations are taught. Things have changed a great deal in the world of maths and strategies are not the same as those us 'golden oldies' were taught way back when! You will perhaps have noticed that a recent change is that we are back to calling maths, maths, rather than numeracy! We look forward to seeing you all.

Next Tuesday between 9.00 and 10.00am, parent surgery will be open. Please feel free to come along for a chat over a cup of tea/ coffee with me. There could be things that you need to get off your chest – maybe you want to tell me how well something is going. Please be aware that this will be in the staff room and, if you have something confidential that you wish to discuss, this may not be the right forum, but I will be happy to make an appointment to see you individually.

Message from Mrs Proietti

Please find attached a flyer we have received today advertising a free workshop focussing on the new county guidance regarding Dyslexia. Information on how to book the workshop is provided on the flyer, but bookings must be made before 9/11/2016.

Reminder – The Safe Use of Cameras (Video, Film and Digital Recording)

There will be occasions during the school year where you will wish to take photographs or make a video recording of your child or children taking part in a school activity. We need to take practical steps to ensure that pictures and images taken of children are done so in a way that reflects the protective ethos of our school. In order to do so, St Luke's needs to ensure that parental use of photography and video is monitored and protected for the benefit of children and their parents. If you wish to take photographs or video in school activities, please sign the file at the office – you will be asked to sign agreement of the following statement:

"I agree that the video/photographs (using a camera, phone or other device) I have taken in school today are only for my personal use. They will not be sold or displayed in a public forum and I will not display them by uploading them to the internet as they may contain pictures of other children. I realise that this is to safeguard pupils."

Poppies

Next week, we will be selling poppies in school on behalf of The Royal British Legion. Suggested minimum donation for a poppy is 20p. Other items are available: Friendship Bracelets £1 each; Slap Rulers £1 each; Wristbands 50p each; Reflectors 50p each.

Attendance

Attendance has dipped slightly again this week and stands at 96.33% (our target for the academic year is 96%).

Photo Orders

The deadline for ordering your child's photo has been extended to Thursday 10th November. If paying by cash, please put the correct money in the plastic wallet as change cannot be given.

Reflectors

In assembly today, the newly-appointed Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) in year 5 talked briefly to the whole school about being seen in the dark. Cambridgeshire County Council has given us free reflectors for all pupils. These are being sent home today.

A few notes from the PTA:

School Christmas Fair

We can hardly believe that it is that time of year again, but it is time to start the preparations for the School Christmas Fair which will take place at 3.30pm on Friday 2nd December. Last year, thanks to your help, we all enjoyed a couple of hours of fantastic Christmas cheer, games and shopping. This year we want to make it even better!

Plans are coming together for a St Luke's Christmas café, lots of fun games and activities, another amazing raffle, stalls full of Christmas crafts, books, toys and gifts and an area where you can wrap up any gifts to keep them a secret from prying eyes – help will be on hand for any children who are hoping to wrap up gifts for the adults visiting the fair with them. We also hope to have a grotto ready should Father Christmas decide to pay St Luke's a visit this year...

We can only make this plan work with your help though. No matter what you can manage, a donation of supplies or your time, big or small, it all helps. Here is a list of the ways you can help this year:

- Second hand or new gifts, toys, books, etc
- Full and empty wine bottles including the bottle cap
- Chocolate bars and boxes
- Wrapping paper and tape
- Jars of toot – small items like party bag toys, crayons, marbles, seeds, etc. that the children love to buy
- Any handmade crafts
- Cakes and savoury baked goods – plates will be sent home with children in Oak, Maple and Rowan, but everyone is welcome to contribute
- Help supervise a stall or game for 20 minutes on the day
- Help with setting up before and clearing up afterwards

All donations should be left in the PTA box, which will be left in the school reception area for a week before the fair. If you are happy to help by donating some of your time, please email us on stlukesschoolpta@gmail.com or come and talk to one of the PTA committee members. If you have any other ideas and are keen to set up your own stall or game at the Christmas Fair, please also get in touch.

If you enjoy making crafts and would like to make some for the Christmas fair, but would like some company while doing it, then why not join some of the mums at a weekly craft morning where you can drink coffee and chat while sticking, sowing and knitting. These will be held at committee member houses on Friday mornings, so please get in touch via email or ask one of us in the playground.

PTA AGM 2016

The 2016 PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held from 3.30 to 4:00pm on Wednesday 16th November at the school. All parents and teachers, as members of the PTA, are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The AGM is an opportunity to find out more about how the funds you have all helped to raise have been used to benefit your children. It will also be a great opportunity to find out how you can help the committee's fundraising activities going forward, but there is no commitment to help out any more than you are able.

We will have coffee and biscuits available at the meeting and some time to get to know your fellow parents. Children are very welcome to attend with you if needed.

PTA Event Dates

Wednesday 16th November – 3:30-4:00 AGM

Tuesday 22nd November – Bag2School Collection

Friday 2nd December – Christmas Fair

Friday 13th January - Movie Night

Thursday 9th February – Cake sale – Holly and Chestnut

Thursday 4th May – Cake Sale – Oak and Rowan

Friday 21st July – Tea Party

Dates:

- 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
- Monday afternoon 7th November, year 2 visit to All Saints' Church (postponed from Thursday 3rd)
- Tuesday 8th November, 9:00-10:00 Parent Forum
- Tuesday morning 8th November, Stained Glass project for year 5
- Tuesday afternoon 8th November, Stained Glass project for year 2
- 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
- Thursday morning 10th November, Stained Glass project for year 5
- Thursday afternoon 10th November, Stained Glass project for year 2
- Friday 11th November, Story-telling Day for KS1
- Friday morning 11th November – Year 5 visit to Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Friday 11th November, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5/6) – parents welcome
- Monday 14th to Friday 18th November, Anti-bullying Week
- Tuesday morning 15th November, Year 6 trip to Saints/Pilgrimage Exhibition (organised by Church Schools of Cambridge) at St John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, Cambridge
- Friday 18th November, Children in Need
- Friday 18th November, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 3/4) – parents welcome
- Tuesday 22nd November, Bag2School Collection
- Friday 25th November, Christmas Tree Festival at St Giles' Church – one class to visit – tbc
- Friday 25th November, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5 or 6 showcase) – parents welcome
- Friday 2nd December, 9:15 Class assembly – tbc
- Friday morning 2nd December, Vision Screening for year 1
- Tuesday 6th December – Craft Day
- Wednesday 7th December – 2:00-3:00 Parent Forum
- Friday 9th December, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5/6) – parents welcome
- Week beginning 12th December – Christmas Parties week
- Wednesday morning 14th December, Choir performing at Cambridge Manor Care Home
- 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