

St. Luke's Newsletter No. 21, Friday 24th February 2017

Message from Dr Catterson

We have had a super busy first week back after half term. I was pleased to see that everyone was back safe and sound on Monday, with a spring in their step after a good rest. We kicked off the week with an absolutely fabulous Big Write, thanks to Mrs Tait's brilliant planning and organisation. The children spent the day thinking about their dream careers, investigating and then writing letters to find out more. Not only was the standard of writing very high, the day was a fascinating insight into the aspirations of the children at St Luke's. Here are just some of the careers that our children plan to pursue later in life: doctor, footballer, architect, police officer, palaeontologist, vet, vlogger, artist, soldier, comedian, museum guard, zoologist, drummer, travel agent, marine biologist, gymnast, chemist, animal rescue worker, art conservator, nurse, pro dirt bike racer, footballer, teacher, fashion designer, archaeologist, actress, hotel receptionist, computer game designer, mechanical engineer, firefighter, carpenter, RAF fighter pilot, forensic archaeologist, biologist, optician, physicist, space agency worker, astrophysicist, environment worker, spy, writer, toy shop manager, mechanic, mathematician and a horse rider. As you can see, our children have very varied and ambitious plans for their futures!

Don't forget that next week is Book Week, so there will be lots of exciting activities to look forward to and the Book Fair will also be open today and on Tuesday in the library between 3:30 and 4:00pm. A few things to be thinking about over the weekend are the extreme reading competition, which this year is reading with animal buddy. There will be prizes for Key Stages 1 and 2. Dressing up as a character from a myth or traditional tale is on Friday 3rd. Have a think over the weekend about your favourite book and why it has a firm place in your heart.

We had an inspiring visit from the Amey Waste Education Department. This was linked to our Geography curriculum, inspiring us to look after the world we live in. The year 3 children thoroughly enjoyed the recycling activities and we have all been inspired to recycle more at home. Amey have offered the St Luke's Family, the opportunity to collect some FREE recycled compost from their centre. All you need to do is take a bag and a spade. All children are welcome to take part in the school competition to design a poster encouraging us to recycle. Amey can be found at Ely Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9PG.

At our latest staff training day, the staff worked together with governors to re-visit the school's vision statement. There was lots of discussion about what we believe in and what makes our school so very special. The outcome of the day was a refreshed statement which has now been formally approved by the Governing Body and is as follows:

Our inclusive community works together to ensure every child is valued and enabled to achieve their full potential within a caring Christian environment.

Every month the school receives a visit from the Education Welfare Officer, who monitors pupil attendance. This also includes looking at those children who are persistently late for school. Having issued a number of late letters to parents recently, I thought it might be helpful to clarify the two different categories of late mark in the register. If a child arrives after a teacher has taken the register, but before the register closes at 9:05am, the child receives an L code mark. If, however, a child arrives after the registers have closed, they receive a U code mark; this is an unauthorised absence which in turn impacts on their overall attendance. Failure to improve your child's punctuality after notification can result in involvement from the Education Welfare Officer, who has the power to issue penalty notices. Please be aware that they also have the remit to be involved with any family where attendance is below 90%.

Message from Lucy Scott, Head of Chesterton Community College

On Tuesday 28th February at 2.00pm at Shire Hall in the Kreis Viersen Room (or Council Chamber if numbers are large), there will be the final meeting to discuss Chesterton's expansion and ability to take children within its catchment. The outcome is not a certainty; if you are able to show your support, by attending the meeting, this would be an excellent way of demonstrating how important this matter is to our community. Many thanks for your support so far.

Attendance

Attendance continues to dip and this week stands at 94.85% (our target for the academic year is 96%).

Course for parents/carers of children with SEN/Disabilities

Back pain? Worried about damaging your back? As parents we are always lifting and carrying our children. This course will teach you how to look after your back to help prevent injury. The training will cover:

- What is Moving and Handling
- Anatomy of the Spine
- The Importance of back care including contributing factors to back pain
- Efficient Moving Principles
- Moving & Handling Children and support available
- Poor Handling techniques (Controversial Techniques)
- Risk Assessments and why they are necessary
- Equipment available

The course will be run by Cambridgeshire NHS Occupational Therapists and a certificate of attendance will be issued.

Date: Wednesday 1st March 2017

Time: 9:30 am – 12 noon

Venue: Cambridge Professional Development Centre, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9NL (Use CB2 9JQ for Sat Navs)

For further details, please visit <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/events/event/177/>

To book a place, please contact Bob Wilson, Manager – SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) – formerly Parent Partnership: email robert.wilson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone 01223 699211.

Spring Term dates (new dates in blue)

- Week beginning 27th February, Book Week
- Tuesday 28th February, Book Fair
- Thursday 2nd March, World Book Day
- Thursday 2nd March, Taster Morning for year 5 at Chesterton Community College
- Friday 3rd March – dressing up day
- Friday 3rd March – 2:45 Book Week Assembly + awards – parents welcome
- Thursday 9th March – year 5 trip to the Museum of Cambridge
- Friday 10th March, 9:15 Oak Class Assembly
- Week beginning 13th March, Science Week
- **Tuesday 14th March, Science Day for years R/1/3/6**
- **Wednesday 15th March, Science Day for years 2/4/5**
- Friday 17th March, 9:05 Science Assembly – parents welcome
- Monday morning 20th March – years 5/6 to CU's Department of Chemistry for 'Burning Issues – Fire and Flame' lecture
- Tuesday 21st March, Mother's Day Lunch
- Wednesday 22nd March, Reports to parents
- Friday 24th March, Red Nose Day
- Friday 24th March, Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years R/1/2) – parents welcome
- Saturday 25th March, PTA Bingo Night – tbc
- 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