

St. Luke's Newsletter No. 26, Friday 31st March 2017

Message from Dr Catterson

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the news that Mrs Blake has decided that it is time to retire. After more than 20 years teaching the children of St Luke's, a life of leisure has lured her away! Like me, you will no doubt regret her departure, but will wish her all the best as she starts another chapter of her life this summer.

I am pleased to report that our Red Nose Day efforts a week ago raised £118.90 – well done everybody!

I am sending out a cry for help next. We have a school kitchen garden, but currently no gardening club. We are looking to relaunch this, but need a green-fingered volunteer or two to step up and lead the way. If you have a couple of hours to spare each week and think you could help us, please contact Nicola in the school office.

Finally, it is time to wish you all Happy Easter, and a restful and relaxing holiday. It has felt like a long term and everyone is most definitely ready for the break. Whatever the next fortnight holds in store for you, stay safe and I'll see you all again on Wednesday 19th April.

A message from Mrs Corlito (Maths Subject Leader) about Maths Schemes of Work

You may have been aware that maths 'topics' and themes may have lasted for longer than previously in your child's class. This is because we have been trialling, and are now adapting, a new 'scheme' of work in mathematics.

The coverage of the scheme is exactly the same as before for each year group (based on year group expectations from the National Curriculum of 2014).

Our new scheme is different in one main aspect: the process of learning concepts is given more time to be explored, practised and hopefully, firmly embedded. The children are not rushed from one area of maths to another until concepts, e.g. addition, are firmly understood and also linked to other areas of learning (addition is the inverse of subtraction and repeated addition is the foundation for multiplication.) Children who have good conceptual understanding are then encouraged to apply this in different contexts and develop '**Mastery**' in this area of maths. We are also using even more practical equipment, models and images to explore concepts in a variety of areas and use precise mathematical vocabulary correctly. Some new textbooks have also been purchased to support this learning.

This approach to the short and medium term plans will enable the children to be more prepared for the 'reasoning' aspect of maths that is now tested in the KS2 SATs tests. A firm conceptual understanding of key maths skills will also be vital for all future learning, both within and beyond school.

If you would like to find out more about this or have any questions or concerns, please do contact me or your child's class teacher.

Attendance

Attendance has dipped again this week and stands at 94.55% (our target for the academic year is 96%).

Head Lice

There have been numerous reports of head lice recently. Please check, and if necessary treat, your child's hair over the holiday.

Summer Term School Values:

1st Half Term – Motivation

2nd Half Term – Honesty

Message from Lisa Curtis (St Luke's PTA) about School Fund

We all know what a wonderful job our teachers do with relatively small budgets. Our PTA tries to fund, or at least subsidise, many of the extra class activities that enhance learning and make it fun. Every year we pay for items such as school trips, themed days, or projects (spring chick-hatching coming soon!). We also care about our children's learning environment and do everything we can to support the teachers by providing the little 'extras' that go a long way to making a big difference, and of course the PTA is behind some of the larger capital projects in the school such as

the kitchen garden, food technology area and the library.

Every year there are more lovely ideas and requests for our help from the staff than we can afford to fund, and whilst raising funds for the school is often a fun and sociable thing to do, it is very clear that there are more efficient ways of raising money and saving time! So with this in mind, we have launched the St Luke's School Fund to start this new financial year. It is a way for you to financially support the school without having to commit time that you may not have to fundraising events. The third bonus to this is that the PTA can claim gift-aid on many parents' donations and make it go 25% further, so it really is a win-win-win!

Attached is an information leaflet about the Fund. The leaflet lists just some of the more 'glamorous' projects and ideas, but the reality is that we help fund so much more. Please take time to read this through. If you feel this is a way that you would like to show your support for the school, then forms can be sent back either electronically or dropped in the red PTA letterbox near the school office at any time! Paper copies of the form will be sent home after the Easter holiday. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Summer Term dates (new date marked in blue)

- Wednesday 19th April, 8:55 term begins
- Wednesday morning 19th April, year 5 visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum
- Friday 21st April, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5/6) – parents welcome
- Monday 24th April, French Club/KS2 Girls' Football/Athletics/Tennis Clubs start
- Tuesday 25th April, KS2 Boys' Football/KS1 Multi Sports Clubs start
- Wednesday morning 26th April, Swimming begins for year 3/4 at Parkside Pool – every Wednesday until end of term
- Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th April, year 3/4 residential trip to the Kingswood Centre at West Runton, Norfolk
- Wednesday 26th April, KS1 Football/KS2 Badminton and Hockey Clubs start
- Thursday 27th April, FUNdamentals/Code/Homework/KS2 Kwik Cricket Clubs start
- Friday 28th April, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 3/4) – parents welcome
- Monday 1st May, school closed for the May Day Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 3rd May, 3:15 PTA Cake Sale (years R/6)
- Friday 5th May, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 1/2) – parents welcome
- 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
- Thursday morning 11th May, year 3 trip to Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Friday 12th May, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 3/4)
- 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 afternoon 15th May, Dance Workshop for year 3
- Tuesday morning 16th May, National Measurement Programme – years R and 6
- Friday 19th May, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (year 4 showcase)
- Friday 19th May, PTA Mums' Movie Night - tbc
- Wednesday 24th May, Choir to Ely Cathedral (God and Science Project)
- Friday 26th May, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5/6) + Ramadan
- 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
- Friday 9th June, 9:15 Holly Class assembly
- **Friday 9th June, PTA Bag2School Collection**
- Friday morning 9th June, year 5 to poetry workshop
- Friday 16th June, 9:15 Oak Class assembly
- Tuesday 13th June, Father's Day Lunch, Cost £3.20
- Monday 19th June, 6:00 Meeting for new Reception parents
- Tuesday 20th to Friday 23rd June, year 5/6 trip to Ilam, Derbyshire
- Friday 23rd June, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (year 3 or 4 showcase)

- Monday afternoon 26th June, dental check project (for some Reception/year 1 pupils)
- Wednesday morning 28th June, Move-up Morning 1/2
- Wednesday morning 28th June, 9:30-10:30 Visit for new Reception pupils 1/2
- Friday 30th June, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 5/6) + Eid and International Day of Friendship
- Friday 30th June, PTA Summer Celebration
- Monday 3rd July, Craft Day
- Monday 3rd July, KS2 Girls' Football/Tennis/Athletics/French Clubs finish
- Wednesday morning 5th July, Move-up Morning 2/2
- Wednesday morning 5th July, 9:30-10:30 Visit for new Reception pupils 2/2
- Wednesday 5th July, Year 6 Induction Day at Chesterton Community College
- Thursday 6th July, Sports Day (back-up day tbc)
- Friday 7th July, 9:15 Music Assembly
- **Monday 10th July, school closed for staff training**
- Tuesday 11th July, KS2 Boys' Football/KS1 Multi Sports Clubs finish
- Wednesday 12th July, 2:00 Year 5/6 Production Dress Rehearsal – parents welcome if unable to attend Performance
- Wednesday 12th July, KS1 Football/KS2 Badminton and Hockey Clubs finish
- Thursday 13th July, FUNdamentals, Code, Homework, KS2 Kwik Cricket Clubs finish
- Thursday 13th July, 6:30 Year 5/6 Production Performance
- Friday 14th July, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (years 1/2) – parents welcome
- Friday 14th July, Reports out to parents
- Friday 21st July, Leavers' Lunch
- Friday 21st July, 1:45 Leavers' Service at St Luke's Church – parents welcome
- Friday 21st July, 3:15 term ends
- Friday 21st July, 3:15 PTA Tea Party