

St. Luke's Newsletter No. 30, Friday 12th May 2017

Message from Dr Catterson

There are lots of things to share with you this week, so I apologise now for the length of my contribution to this week's newsletter. Firstly, I would like to make you aware of changes to the protocol around volunteers. As I am sure you are all aware, safeguarding the children is one of our top priorities and ensuring that we are compliant with the most recent guidance from the government. From now on, any volunteers helping in school running clubs, or supporting on school trips will be required to have gone through several key processes. We will need you to provide two references, complete an employment chronology and have a DBS check. This is now considered best practice and is no reflection on our volunteers. Please do not let this put you off volunteering; we will endeavour to make the process as painless as possible. I am sure you will agree that all measures taken to ensure the safety of the children are steps worth taking.

You may have been following the news story about the father challenging the fine he received for taking his children on holiday during term time. As a result of the High Court decision, the view on attendance within Cambridgeshire has also shifted. No holidays in term time will be authorised and fines could be issued to those who take unauthorised time out of school. Only exceptional circumstances will be considered for authorisation – for example, a funeral. Our Education Welfare Officer already visits once a month to review the attendance of all children. When she visited this week, she indicated that she wished to increase the monitoring and directed us to issue attendance letters to any child with attendance below 93%. Previously, we had taken a more case by case approach to the issuing of letters. As a result of this, 38 letters will be issued in the coming week. I am alerting you in advance because the letters may come as a shock and the tone in which they are written is very officious; the format of the letters are provided by the Local Authority, not us. If you wish to respond to the letter, the Education Welfare Officer has indicated that she is happy to talk directly to families. Please contact the school office for her details.

Congratulations to year 6 for getting through their SATS. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Tucker and all of her team of TAs for supporting the children. Mrs Tucker has been coping with a great deal of pain in recent weeks, due to a hip and back problem, but has valiantly kept going. With SATS now over, she is finally taking her doctor's advice and will be resting at home for the coming month. We have arranged for the class to be covered by a supply teacher that the class already know. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well and hoping she makes a speedy recovery.

Lost property is currently overflowing. Mr Spires will be putting it out over the next fortnight for your inspection and hopefully collection. After that time, any remaining items will be taken to the charity shops.

Finally (I did say it was going to be a long one!) a number of parents have requested that I ask for parents that congregate around Willow class's covered area to be mindful of keeping the entrance and pathway clear.

Attendance

Attendance has dipped slightly this week and stands at 94.80% (our target for the academic year is 96%).

PTA – Parents' Movie Night. The PTA are organising a movie night for parents at the school on Friday 19th May at 7:00pm. Tickets are £10 and will get you some delicious nibbles, and you'll be able to watch Bridget Jones's Baby with friends. Please bring your own drinks/booze and comfy camping chairs, beanbags, cushions to make it extra cosy. This should be a lovely relaxed evening where you can enjoy a movie and get to know other Mums at the school without the distraction of kids. If people are keen we might even visit The Carpenters Arms afterwards! We are aware that this movie is probably going to be more appealing to the Mums in the school, so we are hoping to have another movie night in the future with a film with more "Dad appeal". All suggestions of films you'd like to see are welcome. Thank you for all of your continued support. It makes a big difference to the school and your children.

Summer Term dates (changes/new dates marked in blue)

- Monday 15th to Friday 19th May, year 2 SATs – please do not book any medical appointments/holidays for your children during this week!
- Tuesday morning 16th May, "Learn to speak Ollie" workshop for parents
- Friday 19th May, 2:45 Gold Book/Class Sharing Assembly (year 4 showcase)
- Friday 19th May, 7:00-9:00pm PTA Parents' Movie Night

- Wednesday 24th May, Choir to Ely Cathedral (God and Science Project)
- **Friday morning 26th May, year 5 to St Clement's Church for Pentecost workshop**
- **Friday 26th May, 9:15 Willow Class assembly**
- 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 Michael Rosen 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)
- **Saturday 24th June, 2:30 PTA Tidy-up session**
- Monday afternoon 26th June, dental check project (for some Reception/year 1 pupils)
- **Tuesday morning 27th June, Move-up Morning 1/2**
- **Tuesday morning 27th 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/French Clubs finish
- **Tuesday morning 4th July, National Measurement Programme – years R and 6 (rearranged from 16th May)**
- **Tuesday morning 4th July, Move-up Morning 2/2**
- **Tuesday morning 4th 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, KS1 trip to Wandlebury**
- 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
- Monday 17th July, Athletics Club finishes
- 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