



St Luke's Newsletter



Friday, 29th September, 2017

Dear Parents,

Well, the sun was nice for a couple of days but I've noticed the leaves on the trees beginning to turn as Autumn creeps in. William Wordsworth, one of our great poets, may have described it as the '*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness*,' but I guess we'll just have to put up with a season of clouds and drizzling rain for now.

On the subject of Autumn, next Tuesday we will be holding a **Harvest assembly at 10 am** in the main school - if you would like to come please let the office know. We will be collecting food for **the foodbank at St. Paul's CoE Church in Stratford**. We realise that these are difficult times for many families and ask only for a small donation of, for example, a tin of soup. This helps us talk with the children about how we are here to look after and support each other in such a difficult world. Donations can be given into the class room and will be collected from there for a hall display and service. This is a voluntary donation and we understand if you can't support it at the present moment - this will be handled sympathetically by our staff.



Next Friday (6th Oct) we are holding a coffee morning in aid of the **Macmillan Cancer Trust**. There will be no Golden Assembly and parents are invited to come into school around 9am and enjoy coffee/tea and cakes with their children.

We will ask for a donation from parents but pupils will be charged 50p for drink of juice and piece of cake. However, we will be in need of cakes of all shapes and sizes - home-baked or shop-bought (no nuts please) - to help this charity drive for such a worthwhile cause be a success.

New Website: We have let the relevant web authorities know that we are ready to launch our new website and are just awaiting confirmation that it has replaced our old website. As soon as we have this we will text you a link to your phones that will allow you to download/bookmark it to your phone or tablet if you have one. I look forward to hearing your opinions on it.



Reception Parents: Next Thursday evening at 5.30 in the main school hall there will be a '*Teaching of Reading*' meeting. This is aimed at helping you to support your child through this very important skill and we ask that you make every effort to attend so we can work together to help your child have a successful start to their reading life. Your child will find this meeting very boring so please try and arrange a friend/family member to look after them - we will try to finish promptly by 6.30pm.



An important message to all Year 6 parents:



You should have all received a copy of the London Borough of Newham's '*Starting Secondary School - Your guide to secondary schools in Newham*' (given to your child this week). Please be aware that the school are only provided with enough for one per child. Any lost copies will have to be replaced through London Borough of Newham, for which there is a charge.

To guide you through this process, we will be holding a meeting after school on Thursday 5th October at 15:30 in the hall. During this meeting we will explain the application procedure, including important dates, requirements for faith schools and the appeals procedure should you need it. We will also attempt to answer and questions that you may have. Please be aware that there are VERY strict deadlines that have to be adhered to. It would be useful if you could bring your guide with you.

During this time, we will also provide a briefing on the 2018 SATS arrangements, including how these are now marked and graded and how you can best support your child. This is an important meeting, suitable for parents and Year Six pupils, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. - *Mr. Huntingford, Deputy Headteacher.*



Young Carers: You may have heard this mentioned in the past but we need to draw your attention to those we term 'Young Carers'.

A young carer is someone aged 18 or under who helps look after a relative who has a condition, such as a disability, illness, mental health condition, or a drug or alcohol problem. Most young carers look after one of their parents or care for a brother or sister.

What might a young carer do? They might help in practical tasks such as cooking, housework and shopping. Other tasks may include physical care, such as helping someone out of bed, or personal care, such as helping someone dress, or emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed. Young carers may also help to give medicine, help someone communicate or simply help looking after brothers and sisters.

Some people start caring at a very young age and don't really realise they are carers. Other young people become carers overnight. There are about 700,000 young carers in the UK and most don't realise that they are carers!

There is nothing wrong with this but it may begin to impact on the education of your child(ren). If your children do any of these then they are a 'young carer' and the important thing to realise is that there is help and support available! Please don't hesitate to talk to Mr Scott or Mr Durrant and we can help you find out what help is available out there.

And finally...please note that the office telephone number is 020 7476 3559. Whilst you may get calls from another number, always return the call on the office number. The other number (020 7476 0880) is a fax and calls will not be answered. Thank you.

I hope you have a great weekend and look out for the text next week about the new website!

Thanks

Matt Hipperson