



St Luke's News

A Christian school that serves a diverse community and works in partnership with parents to develop the whole child.



Friday 1st March 2019

Dear Parents

Keeping children safe is our top priority at St. Luke's, whether on school premises or beyond, and this of course extends to the online world.

Online safety or digital resilience is a whole-school effort. It is not only embedded throughout the curriculum - explicitly in subjects like PSHE (*Personal, Social, Health and Economic education - see footnote**) and Computing - but also taught and discussed in subjects and topics throughout the year and it is, of course, very much part of our safeguarding focus given the real risks and dangers which exist online. In all, we do however like to focus on the positives of the online world. We recognise that technology is here to stay and pupils at our school live, love and learn through their tech.



If you want to find out more about the realities of life online for young people, which includes a lot about the risks, you may wish to read the results of a survey of 40,000 UK schoolchildren at hopesandstreams.lgfl.net.

However, what we'd like to encourage you to do is to talk to your children about what they get up to online. The survey showed us that they want to talk to you and trust your life experience and advice - so it doesn't matter if you've never played their games, heard of their apps or got a virtual reality headset!

With this in mind, the past week has seen press stories about a particular nasty challenge circulating with a scary image on social media. These stories are based on an urban myth/hoax which circulates every few months. Whether that is the case or not, please do not show these scary images from the newspapers to your children in order to talk about it, and do not mention the challenge by name. Instead, as we have discussed briefly with Years 3-6, talk about what to do if they see something scary or someone dares them to do something stupid or dangerous. Ask them if they would tell someone and who that would be - and make sure they know *never* to forward these things to their classmates.

*PSHE is a school curriculum subject in England which focusses on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes to keep children and young people healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work

Hooks and Trips

Our half-term began with a bang on Monday when all pupils had a workshop from the 'Silly Scientist'. They worked on a number of practical science investigations ending with an explosive chemical reaction with a Mentos (type of mint) and fizzy coke drink experiment - and oh my word, *WAS* it explosive!! (as I discovered when I stood too close and got coke in my hair – well, on my head!). Below is an extract from a review by one of our Y6 children:

“On the 25th of February, St Lukes’ pupils experienced something amazing. They came into the hall and met a messy man who they realised was a scientist. He was there because it was Science Week. Moving on from the first experiment (fire triangle), which was an unexpected occurrence, he explained gravity and the meaning of forces and got out a blowdryer. He turned it on and put a small plastic ball on top of it. It floated and he said that it happened because the force from the air and the force of gravity were pushed against each other. He repeated the same experiment with a leaf blower and a beach ball which was fun to see. He had defied gravity.”

– Rachel Year 6



Sports Success

On Wednesday our Y5/6 girls football team (and 1 member from Y4) took part in a borough football tournament at Langdon School. During the quarter finals the organiser told the school we were about to face that we were the favourites - and he was right as we won that game, the semis AND the final to be crowned champions! That's another large golden trophy in the cabinet! Well done girls.

Learning experiences

Y1 and Y4 travelled to the Unicorn Theatre on separate days this week to see shows and there were also multiple visits to the Science Museum. These trips are so important in giving our children the widest possible experiences to contribute to their overall growth. The trips would also not be possible without the support of our parent body – as a small school we have a limited pool of staff to send on these trips so your continued support is vital.

Staff Training this week

Two of our EY staff visited nearby Kier Hardie School this week to see and contrast the way they do things and Mr. Jennings hosted a NE London maths hub meeting on Friday aimed at developing 'stem' questions for maths. This is a process whereby the pupils are given simple sentence starters/structure to help encourage their mathematical language so that they can use it again in the future: eg, "The number _____ can be rounded to _____ because it is closer to _____."

And finally, a big thanks to Phil Preston from the Diocese of Chelmsford who came and did some governor training around the school vision on Wednesday evening.

I hope you have a peaceful weekend and a great week,

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher



More from our Silly Scientist - and a big well done to our Golden Assembly heroes.

