



St Luke's News

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



Friday 22nd March, 2019

Dear Parents,

We don't seem to be able to do quiet weeks at St. Luke's! Today saw another visit from the Daily Mail featuring the work our children do to care for their local environment. The journalist was once again amazed by the passion and commitment of our children to make a difference and how they are a beacon of good citizenry in what can be a gloomy world – we are expecting them to feature in the newspaper tomorrow and I will confirm that with a text if it comes to pass.

On Wednesday several of our staff visited George Carey CoE School in Barking to take part in a maths learning walk and post walk discussion around how to improve our provision. In future weeks they are going to come and observe how we teach reading. In the sporting world we welcomed St. Helens this week and played girls' and boys' football matches, winning both which were played with great sportsmanship.

Sizzling Hot Potatoes

From little acorns grow great sports men and women! Our youngest sports competitors, our Y1 'Hot Potato' team (it's a catching and throwing competition – I didn't know either!) took on 10 other teams in a borough competition and battled through to win the bronze medal. Once again, a fantastic achievement for a small school – the sports roll of honour is now completely out of control!



The Chelmsford Great Debate

Also on Wednesday our Y4 team took part in a Diocese of Chelmsford debating competition against a number of Essex schools (see photos). Our team excelled but do not take my word for it – below are the comments of one of the Diocese team running the event:

“Heartfelt congratulations to you, Miss Sammon and the team. They surpassed themselves! They were exceptional in terms of their performance and politeness, their manners and





their conduct. It was such a pleasure to have them as part of the competition. Jedediah took such good care of the judges - they were very grateful. The room was a 400 hundred seater lecture theatre in Anglia Ruskin University - no problem to the team!"

Nicola Browne
Diocese of Chelmsford
public speaking trainer



Sex & Relationship Education (SRE)

I am aware from discussions with our parents, members of the borough education team and other head teachers that this is becoming a cause for concern for some in the Newham community. I am also aware that some guidance has been given out at a variety of places of worship over the last few weeks. I would appeal to people to have a balanced approach to this issue and follow some simple steps that may help give you a better understanding of the issues.

Firstly, view [our SRE policy](#) on our website under the [Policies tab](#) and be very sure to understand that we are here to deal with young children appropriately - a duty the staff take with great responsibility. Secondly, please take the opportunity to come and look at our SRE lesson outlines from YR to Y6 and see, for example, that when we discuss SRE at Reception, we are talking about understanding that we all grow from babies to adults and how to stay healthy. We are planning an open event to be held after Easter and I will send out a text to let you know the date when it is confirmed. If after that you still have concerns, then I will hold a meeting at a mutually convenient time before the whole school covers this part of the curriculum in June. It's always good to talk and be informed when making a decision - after all we all have the best interests of our children at heart.

The Year 3 Tate Project

Last week our Y3 children had their class picture taken to be included in a Tate Modern art project being led by Turner Prize-winning artist and Oscar-winning filmmaker Steve McQueen and it will later appear in a bespoke piece of artwork along with many other London Y3 classes. For more information click on the link below:

<https://tateyear3project.org.uk/news/steve-mcqueen-says-thank-you-to-schools-and-encourages-more-to-join-project>



Parent-Teacher Evenings

Remember, next Tuesday and Wednesday are our Spring Parent-Teacher meetings for YR-Y6 and like last time they will take place in your child's classroom – as you walk round the school please look out for the amazing doors decorated in honour of our favourite books.



And finally...

Our Golden wonders from today!



Have a peaceful Lenten weekend

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher

Spring Term Dates

March

25 th	Hamlet (Young Shakespeare Co.) with Y5&6 all day
26 th & 27 th	Parent Evenings 3.30-6pm
28 th	Community meal to say goodbye to Fr Dave Wade
28 th 2.45pm	Meeting about the French trip for Y4
29 th	'Wear a Hat' day for brain cancer research

April

3 rd	Y3/4 Easter production for parents – 2 PM
4 th	School closes for Easter, 1pm