



# St Luke's News

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



**Friday 29th March, 2019**

Dear Parents,

*Please allow me some personal thoughts to start today's newsletter.*

I am writing this to you on Friday morning before I leave school early to watch my oldest boy receive his degree in Technical Theatre Studies from St. Mary's University in Twickenham. He is getting a First Class Honours degree but that is not why I mention it. He is obviously very special to me - as are your beautiful children to you - but my son struggled at times through school (he is dyslexic) and his school often struggled to support him to achieve his best. I say this without criticising them. For me the learning from his experience was two-fold: firstly, that the school, the learner and his family kept working together to unlock his potential and secondly, he didn't give up! We have talked all year about using our Core Christian Values (CCV) - particularly in this case, *perseverance* - to help us push through any barriers that are put in front of us. This I think is the model for St. Luke's to be the best it can: a strong home-school partnership that allows all our children to thrive. I am aware that we, as a school, do not always get it right but I assure you that by working together we can all succeed.

## **SIAMS**

I was phoned last Wednesday and informed that St. Luke's would be having our SIAMS – Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools - this coming Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. The lead inspector, Ms Corbyn, will be onsite between 8am and 5pm and during that time will be gathering a range of evidence and will be especially keen to gather the opinions of children and parents about how the school meets our school vision and important duty as a distinctively Christian School.

## **Happy News**

I know some people are already aware, but for those of you who don't know, Miss Rowe is getting married to her fiancé Simon next weekend. On behalf of our school community we wish them the most magical day and more importantly a blessed life together. This year both Ms Aulakh and myself celebrate 30 years of marriage and can testify to the myriad of benefits marriage has brought us but please have the good grace not to check if our partners feel the same!



## **Sadder news but best wishes!**

On Thursday Ms Leech leaves the school after 5 years of running our nursery provision. She is relocating out of London and again on behalf of the whole school community wish her and her family all the best and give our heartfelt thanks for all her hard work and care over these years.

## Parent-Teacher meetings

Thanks for your attendance at our Spring review meeting last Tuesday and Wednesday and also for over 40 of you taking the time to fill out our parent survey. This helps us to build on the things we do well and address any concerns that arise and Mr. Scott will prepare a report of these which I will share with you after Easter.

## Easter Show



Next week sees our Y3/4 children lead our preparations for Easter with their performance on Wednesday of *'The Three Trees'* which links the wood for the crosses to Christ's crucifixion. It is a particularly apt show for our school as we try to live up to our mission as a church school as well as our passion for looking after the world God created for us. Doors open at 1.45pm for snacks and the children will begin at 2pm.



## Father Dave

Thursday saw the final school act of worship from Father Dave (after approximately 450 since 1995!). Afterwards he visited some of our KS2 classrooms and shared some stories from the early days of his time with us and then had lunch with the children, some parents and members of the parish council – we wish him all the best and hope to keep in touch with him.

## Reminders

School closes for the Easter break at 1pm on Thursday 4th April and re-opens at the normal time on Tuesday 23rd April. Also because next week is the last week of term there are no after school clubs but breakfast club will operate as normal.

## GP & Dental Appointments

When we teach the likes of maths or english, the lessons are not stand alone lessons but actually span the week, each daily lesson building on the one the day before. So when a child is taken out of class - even if it's just for a morning or afternoon - that child not only misses that part of the week's programme but as a consequence often struggles to catch up when the lesson progresses the following day. Please, please try to make routine GP and dental appointments outside school hours. Please try to avoid unnecessary absences.

## Staying in Contact

There is nothing worse or frustrating than trying to contact a parent when their child is ill or there is an emergency, only to hear an automatic response telling the caller that the number is no longer in use. Please try and ensure the school is able to contact you at all times by making sure we have an up to date telephone number for you.

## Term Dates & Policies

No need to call the office - all term dates and policies are on our website:

[www.st-lukes.newham.sch.uk](http://www.st-lukes.newham.sch.uk)

And finally... a big well done to the four winners of the Stand By Me home learning task set by Ms Norcross. Great work by family and children! (see photo below).

Have a great weekend,

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher

