



St Luke's Newsletter



Friday 7th December 2018

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand' - Mother Theresa

Dear Parents,



Advent is in full swing and this week we have been concentrating on the core message of Christmas: how we can follow the example of Jesus in serving others in our community. At the end of the newsletter there is a plea for some help from you but we also understand that this can be a difficult time of year for some families, so please help our appeals if you can - but do not feel you have to if you are already struggling.

Christmas can be a difficult time for some people in any community but by working together to remember the true and first meaning of Christmas, we can help each other thrive.

If only our Politicians could debate as respectfully as children from St. Luke's!

Yesterday afternoon the House of Commons came to St. Luke's in the form of our KS2 debate on the motion: *'This House believes that only people who are born in Great Britain are truly British.'*

Eight children spoke for the motion and eight against, then questions were opened up to the floor in a mirror of how our democracy works. There were some speeches that stirred up a lot of debate, especially those from Yoma Y3 who argued passionately that we *"should accept people for who they are,"* (backed up by Ruona Y5 *"We should value people and not try to change them."*). Datonye, Y6, talked of people who may have a British passport *"...but who carry on customs from other parts of the world and this can lead to people getting hurt."* whilst Chinonyerem, Y4, mentioned the importance of immersing yourself in British culture. The motion was defeated by a vote of approximately 80% - 20% and only on one occasion did the St. Luke's Parliament descend into the chaos and name calling of Westminster when one speaker said in a firm voice, *"You are talking nonsense!"* The children were measured in their point, confident in their delivery and the debate as a whole moved Mr. Scott to say, *"That's why we are a great school!"*



Governor Election

Talking of democratic values, the Governors have counted the votes in the recent election and have announced that Ms Abatan has been elected as your latest Parent Governor. Many thanks to Mr. Knight for standing and to those KS2 children who helped administer the election.

Coffee Mornings

Thanks so much to the staff and parents who attended our coffee morning this week themed around 'Zones of Regulation'. This is a structured way of thinking that allows some children and adults to improve the way they deal with their own emotions and allows them to fulfil their potential - if you are curious to know more, we are holding another one this **Monday 10th December at 8.45am** - all welcome.

Christmas Celebrations

This coming Monday morning sees the Bigfoot Theatre Company's Christmas pantomime of *Pinnocchio* being performed for the children - if they didn't know Christmas was approaching before this, I suspect they will certainly have worked it out afterwards! Please check the dates below for opportunities for you to come in and join our other celebrations.

Tickets for Nativity Plays (Early Years & KS1)

Tickets for these productions should be available on Monday.

Homeless meal and gifts for the elderly

Friday the 21st December sees our second annual meal for the homeless and the children have been discussing how we can help. A group made a poster and leaflets to be distributed to local homeless shelters and 35 children are going to raise money by singing carols at **Waitrose Supermarket, Canary Wharf next Tuesday, 11th December**.

We have also teamed up with the hostel for elderly people, across the road at 55 Ruscoe Road, to invite them to come to our Christmas shows. We would also like to make up some shoe-box presents with small gifts inside to give to them as many of them do not have family to visit them or make them feel special at Christmas time. Any donations would be very much appreciated. In the past when we have done this, we've made up a mix of toiletries and some small bits to eat (eg; a tube of toothpaste, tea bags, a chocolate bar, mint humbugs). These really make the elderly folk feel appreciated.



Shoes

Another reminder: all pupils need to wear plain black shoes/boots for school. No trainers or brand names, thank you.

And finally... Our Christmas post-box is now open. Please make sure that if your child is writing Christmas cards, they must include CLASS YEAR on envelope!

Have a joyful Advent season

Matt Hipperson

Dates for your diary

Mon 10 th Dec.....	Bigfoot Panto – Pinocchio -9.30-11 AM
Tues 11 th Dec.....	School choir to sing carols in Waitrose (lunchtime)
Wed. 12 th Dec.....	EYFS Christmas Fayre AM & Y3/4 Girls footie PM
Fri 14 th Dec.....	Y1 Christmas Journey (AM) River Church
Mon. 17 th Dec.....	KS1 Dress Rehearsal (AM)
Tues 18 th Dec.....	EYFS dress rehearsal (AM) KS1 show for parents (PM)
Wed 19 th Dec.....	EYFS show for parents (AM) Y5/6 Boys basketball tourno (PM)
Thurs. 20 th Dec.....	Christingle Assembly (AM) & Christmas parties (KS1: 1.15-2pm, KS2: 2.15-3pm)
Fri. 21 st Dec.....	Attendance assembly and awards for Growth Mindset (AM)

School closes at 1pm – Christmas dinner for homeless 2-5pm



The Great Debate and a big 'well-done' to our Golden Assembly heroes - including Ms Mbick and Ms Adams (left).





A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT...
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, RUSCOE ROAD, E16 1JB
YOUR PARISH CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS



SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS CAROLS
10.30 a.m. Christmas Communion and Worship
COME AND SING YOUR FAVOURITE CAROLS...



MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE
11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass
JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE...

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS MORNING
10.30 a.m. A Short Service for Jesus' Birthday.
COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF JESUS' BIRTH...