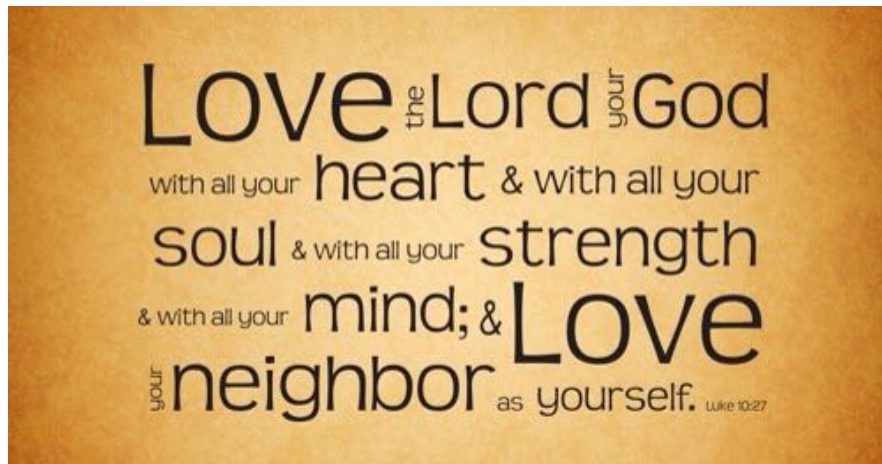




St Luke's News

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



20th January 2023

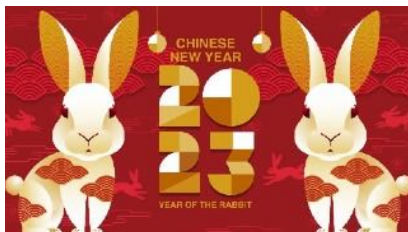
Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been talking about God's love for us and what that means in our lives. That included being kind and showing love to ourselves and how that links to how we interact with others. We saw a short video of how to 'pass kindness forward' and spent some time thinking what that looks like in our school. Our children are the best hope we have of improving our world and they definitely give me confidence for the future.

Strike Action

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) have declared 4 days of strike action, which are planned to take place on February 1st and March the 2nd, 15th & 16th. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over pay and insufficient funding in schools and not because of any issues at our school.

I'm highlighting this to give you as much notice as possible that school may be disrupted on the dates above. We're considering several options but it is my best guess that some classes may be closed and some open. We hope the employers and unions will use the next 10 days to seek a solution but as always it is best to be prepared in case strikes go ahead. I will give you more detailed information next week.



Chinese New Year

Sunday sees the beginning of Chinese New Year 2023 – The year of the Rabbit begins this Sunday and in response our KS2 children will be getting workshops in the hall next Thursday to help them understand

the zodiac story and the 12-year cycle of Chinese New Year. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to be peaceful, avoiding arguments, criticism and change. According to the Chinese Language Institute, rabbits are also viewed as highly intelligent and tenacious, but can fall prey to jealousy and pessimism! Watch out for photos next week.



Parent Power...and love!



Above is a photo I wanted to share with you. One of our governors had organised a coffee morning for the parents of some of our children with SEND. I came in towards the end and listened to parents sharing their experiences both challenging and beautiful. It was genuinely one of the most moving meetings I have ever attended – excellent Governor engagement and I know that your governor representatives on the Governing Board would like to run a larger event for all so we will look for a Friday before Easter where we can use the hall for such an event – well done! Below is a comment from one of the parents who attended:

“The coffee morning today was very eye opening. Listening to other parents made me feel like I wasn’t alone. It was nice to hear from parents who have been on this journey longer than I have and taking nuggets from their experiences. It also felt like a safe and comfortable space to share my feelings. Thank you to Miss Norcross and our Parent Governor for setting this up.”

Nicole - Reuben’s mum.

A message from the Terence Brown Arc, Canning Town and Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, Stratford.

The Terence Brown Arc in the Park is a flagship adventure play, sports and youth hub running projects all year round for young people with Special Educational Needs (SEND) We run a selection of activities including:

- LEGO Clubs
- Cycling Clubs
- Wellbeing Groups
- Gardening Club
- SEND Multisports
- SEND Disco's and much more.

You can access the flyers using this link - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WOrDUFpqv6H3xKjkSCaxnCRxiGUVLfnp?usp=sharing>



Problem solving with the Institute of Imagination (loi)

St. Luke’s was one of two Newham schools that engaged with the *loi* on design projects during lockdown. Now this innovative charity works with schools across the borough but they enjoyed working with us so much, they still come back to visit us. This week, we took advantage of their offer of free training for staff and additional workshops for pupils in class from their creative team. We were able to explore our learning in a blended-learning programme which champions the power of imagination and creativity across the arts, sciences, and digital technologies for children. This STEM approach (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering & **M**aths) is key for our pupils’ futures. Year 1

created balancing sculptures that represented themselves. Our unique identities are so important and our pupils were proudly able to explain who they are and why they are special and unique. In Year 3, pupils created laughing automatons and used their DT skills to create a moving machine. Year 5 used their coding know-how to code their emotions, linking their well-being lessons to their computing lessons.



Huge thanks for the teaching staff for supporting the Institute of Imagination to teach workshops that enrich our already very busy curriculum. And more importantly, well done to our pupils who all embraced this hands-on learning approach, to create amazing things and overcome challenges and frustrations that came up along the way.

Request

Please do not send in hot drinks in flasks for the children – we understand it is cold at the moment but we are able to keep the school warm enough and they get hot food at lunchtime. The reason is that with a lot of children in the dinner hall someone could get scalded.

Celebrations & Stars of the Week



YR, Y1 & Y2



Happy Birthday!



Y3,4,5&6

Please make a note of diary dates below

Have a peaceful weekend



Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher



Spring Term 2023 dates

January

- 24th Initial meeting of the 6 schools selected (St. Luke's is one) for the Enthuse Computing Project
- 26th Chinese New Year workshops and special lunch
- 27th Holocaust Memorial Day – service at Old Stratford Town Hall
- 27th Y4 visiting VUE cinema for free screening
- 31st Y5/6 boys West Ham United Football Tournament @ Beckton

February

- 3rd Non-Uniform day for Times Table Rock Stars
- 6th-10th Children's Mental Health Week
- 8th PM Futsal Tournament for Y5 @ Rokeby School

School Closed for Half-Term Mon 13th to Fri 17th Feb. – Re-opens as normal Mon 20th Feb.

February

- 20th YR & Y6 Height & Weight checks AM
- 20th Feb – 3rd March Y5 intensive swimming course every morning @ Olympic Pool Stratford
- 23rd Y6 free visit to see Trial of Josie K at Stratford youth Zone Theatre

March

- 10th Teaching & Learning Coffee Morning for parents
- 13th-17th Mid-Year test for Y3,4&5
- 20th – 24th Spring Parent-Teacher meetings all week
- 24th Y6 Music Assembly – Parents Welcome
- 29th Y3&4 Easter production PM – Parents welcome
- 31st School closes at 1pm for Easter Holidays

School Closed for Easter Holidays Mon 3rd to Mon 17th April – Re-opens as normal Tuesday 18th April