



St Luke's News

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



21st April 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you were able to have some quality time with your children at Easter despite all the pressures of life. Thanks to the families of the Y6s who allowed their children to come in to take part in an Easter School SATs revision week running up to Good Friday. Thanks go to the staff who also gave up their time to give the children this boost.

Now we are back, this term will move fast with national SATs tests for Y2 & Y6, Y1 phonic tests for Y1, Times Tables tests for Y4 and all the judgements on our lovely YR children to be made by the end of June. Within all of this we have unwanted strike action to absorb due to the impasse between the government and the unions and even an extra bank holiday on Monday 8th of May coming up. We have been fortunate that our Justice Committee, guided by Miss O'Garro and Miss Mbick have opened the term with some work on equality in the context of remembering what happened to Stephen Lawrence 30 years ago this Saturday.

'Take the blinders from your vision, take the padding from your ears, and confess you've heard me crying, and admit you've seen my tears.'

– From *Equality* by Maya Angelou

Stephen Lawrence Remembered



Here are some books/links you could share with your family which both celebrate and build on our assembly today:

- *We All Belong* by Nathalie Gross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffX3GeRuoJE&t=42s>
- *First Questions and Answers: What is Racism?* by Katie Daynes and Jordan Akpojarro <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9b9sypl9p4>
- *When We Say Black Lives Matter* by Maxine Beneba Clarke (*I have a copy of this book*)
- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch
- *My Hair* by Hannah Lee
- *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna

- *The Island* by Armin Greder
- *What Stephen Lawrence taught us?* by Benjamin Zephaniah (Y6) <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/benjamin-zephaniah-what-stephen-lawrence-has-taught-us>
- *Equality* by Maya Angelou <https://www.poetryverse.com/maya-angelou-poems/equality>
- *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin

And in the spirit of equality and diversity we wish our Muslim families Eid Mubarak and our Hindu/Sikh families Happy Vaisakhi, both of which fell this week!



Building Confidence



During the Spring term the school invited 12 of our older children to a weekly after-school course aimed at increasing their self-confidence. This week Genielle, the course leader, returned to help the children perform an assembly to show how they had developed. We hope to run this course again in September with some hand picked children.

Tea Party for King Charles

On Friday the 5th May we will be holding a tea party for the new King and parents are invited to come along for some light refreshments and to hear our children singing in celebration from 2.30pm onwards. The singing will include a duet from Miss Norcross and Mr. Bonner called *(King Charles)* 'You're the one that I want' – Not to be missed!

Maternity Leave

Next week will see Miss Rowe our beloved Reception teacher begin her maternity leave and we wish her all the best and marvel at the fact that she has been able to stay working so close to her due date. We welcome Miss Kangal-Nurse, a very experienced teacher, to cover the maternity leave.

SEND Coffee Morning

Next Friday morning at 9am there will be a coffee morning for parents of children with Special Education Needs hosted by Miss Norcross and one of our Parent Governors Miss Abatan. There will also be 2 members of the LBN Early Help Team attending to give details of a course to support parents of Autistic children.



No Leggings Please

We relaxed the uniform code last September to help families reduce their costs **but we cannot have children wearing leggings.** Please remember dark tracksuit bottoms are ok but please not tight leggings – we will ring parents to bring in something more appropriate if they turn up in them. Thanks for your understanding.

Clothes Recycle

We will run our school uniform exchange again next Friday afternoon in the hall from 2.45pm, so if you want to donate some old clothing that is too small for your child and pick up some spare clothing that is bigger, please come along.

Strike Action

There are 2 upcoming teacher strikes, the first is this coming **Thursday 27th April** and the second is on the following **Tuesday 2nd of May**. There has been a change to the letter that went out this week which means that **YN, Y1, Y2 & Y6 will be open as normal** but **YR, Y3, Y4 & Y5 will be closed for both days**. I know this is causing strain for families and staff and we hope the 2 sides will reach a compromise as soon as possible.

Upcoming dates for the entire Summer Term will be in next week's newsletter.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend



Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher