



St Luke's News

Aspiring to be just and kind. Walking humbly with God.
Growing with every opportunity



10th September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back everyone – we hope everyone was able to get some restful time over the Summer holidays (even though being a parent is a full-time job!)

The children have returned and our settling in well to the new year and we are all getting used to not having our former Deputy Head Miss Norcross around since she retired in July. I have mentioned last school year that we have had to make quite hard budget cuts due to reduced funding and one of these cuts has been not to replace the Deputy Head role and reducing the number of office staff, so I would ask for your understanding if it takes the school longer than normal to answer any queries. We intend for our families and children to have the same level of service and opportunities for growth in their learning so hopefully you will not notice too many effects.



This is a short newsletter to give you some immediate information for the new school year and the first 'normal' newsletter including *Golden Assembly* celebrations and with key dates for your diary will be on Friday the 20th September.

Upcoming Meetings - Y7 Secondary Transition Meeting & More!

Monday, 16th of September at 5pm, we will hold our annual meeting to help Y6 parents understand the process of naming the schools they would like their children to go next September. The transition brochure went out to parents last week and it would be great if all the parents could attend this meeting to make sure everyone gets a good secondary school offer next March.

We are also holding an 'Early Language Development' meeting for EYFS parents to be held on Wednesday 25th Sept. This meeting is aimed at helping your child develop & improve their language, which will help them in all areas of learning.

There will also be EYFS & KS1 '*Meet the Teachers*' morning on Thursday 26th Sept. The KS2 '*Meet the Teacher*' morning will be on Friday the 27th Sept. and Open Days for parents looking to join Reception next year in Sept. 2025.

Music

Music lessons from Newham Music will begin again on the week of Monday 23rd September!

Attendance at school and changes to attendance rules

It is really important to get your child into school everyday and on time. We know this can be difficult at times with young children but the table below shows just how much time children can lose from lateness alone.

The Department of Education have issued new guidance in August which the London Borough of Newham have implemented and all parents need to read and understand. Please see the poster at the end of this letter which summarises this information:

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...

Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Minutes | 3.5 Days from School | 20 Lessons |
| 10 Minutes | 7 Days from School | 41 Lessons |
| 15 Minutes | 10 Days from School | 55 Lessons |
| 20 Minutes | 14.5 Days from School | 82 Lessons |
| 30 Minutes | 22 Days from School | 123 Lessons |

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Parents are expected to:

Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies. Notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g. sickness). Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance. Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible. Newham's Policy on Attendance:

Penalty notices

School's can now send parents/carers a penalty notice if:

- *Your child's attendance falls below 90 per cent in a term period without a good reason.*
- *You take your child out of school during term time (for holidays for example) without agreeing the leave with the school.*

Newham London

Attending school on time every day matters

Penalty Notices Fines for Unauthorised Absence are changing from 19 August 2024

The Department for Education has introduced a new national framework, that comes into force for any Penalty Notice issued from 19 August 2024.

Per parent, per child
Penalty Notices fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent without authorisation.

National framework threshold
A Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England for:
Unauthorised absence during a 10 school week period.
➤ 5 consecutive days (10 sessions) – one after the other.
➤ 10 non consecutive sessions – not one after the other.

The 10 school week period can go across different school terms or school years.

First offence
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued (after 19 August 2024) for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
➤ **£160** per parent, per child if paid within 28 calendar days.
➤ Discounted to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 calendar days.

Second offence
The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
➤ **£160** per parent, per child if paid within 28 calendar days.
➤ No discount for paying within 21 calendar days.

Third and any further offences
The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued.
➤ The case will instead be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court.
➤ Prosecution can result in a criminal record and fine of up to £2,500.
➤ Cases where the defendant is found guilty in Magistrate's Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate as being due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



newham.gov.uk

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Hopefully I will get to see most of you over the next few weeks, whether in the playground or at some of the upcoming meetings.

Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher