



# St Luke's News

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



19th June 2020

Dear Parents

*We now have just over a quarter of our pupils in school and it is great to get more children back in here. I realise how frustrating it is for all those children and parents who would like to be back in school (it is frustrating for us also) but under government social distancing guidance we are at the limit of what we can do at the moment. However, with every passing week I am convinced that we will all be back in September as long as there is not a large rise in new cases.*

## September plans

Right now we are planning for September and my best guess is that we may offer different start and finish times for different year groups as well as staggered play and lunchtimes. As soon as we know what will happen we will let you know.

## Trying to make sense of the world

Those children who have been in this week have had some lovely chats with me about the current situation of the world and how it is easy to get 'down' about our world. We looked at two lovely stories you can find on Youtube called ['The Red Tree'](#) and ['The Man Who Planted Trees'](#) by Jean Giono. The stories come together to show that hope and human determination are the answer to all the madness around us – please look them up!

## Bringing Silenced Voices back into History

Last week we talked about how it is important to ensure black lives matter in order for us to be able to say that all lives matter. I mentioned how we are looking at our curriculum to make sure it honestly reflects the history of our world and that all peoples are represented. I myself was born in Canada and there the 'First Nation' Canadians were all but written out of the history by white European settlers. As we look for equality and truth we are finding more resources from LBN (London Borough of Newham) and I will send a link out after this newsletter which has QR code\* links to nine lovely stories being read out on *Youtube* for you to discuss with your children around the theme of equality. Follow the link below which will take you to the book selection on the [Parents' Page](#) of our website.



[BAME Story Book Listening \(Via Youtube\)](#)



[\* QR codes are those funny patterned square codes (left) you often see on signs. You can download a free app from your app store - simply search QR Reader. Once you have it you simply point your phone at the sign and it will take you, like a link, to the information or product.]

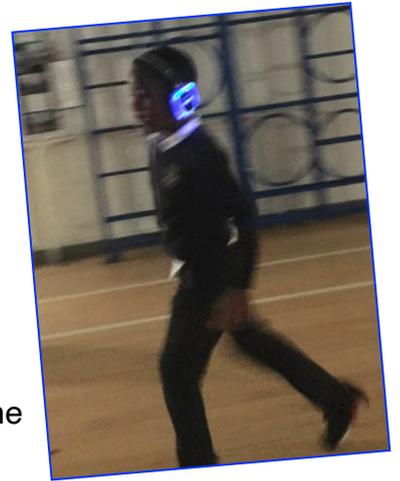
## Silent Disco

This week our pupils (and staff) have been throwing shapes and busting moves on the dance floor! It was a great way to let our hair down, relax and have fun. The disco was



anything but silent with many a sing-a-long! We also used the headsets in the classroom to support in an immersive writing workshop. The writing from the pupils was amazing! Edem said, "*I never knew I could write like this!*"

A huge thanks to silentdisco4u, who offered the headsets at a reduced cost as an act of kindness.



## Learning from these strange times

As a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) we are working on what we have learnt from these strange times. There are things we want to go back to obviously but there are a surprising number of innovations that we think may have long term benefits. An example are the headphones above - they have made us think that such a flexible resource is a real bonus - whether it is conveying calming music for well being, dance music to make us feel invigorated or a pre-recorded set of instructions for a child that might need continual prompts to achieve their potential. We have also noticed the benefit of physical fitness sessions at the beginning of the day in helping some children focus on their learning – it is as if getting rid of any physical stress/tiredness can allow them to thrive and most stunning of all is the social progress of many of our children on the SEND register (something many schools are noticing) in an environment where they can get more of the support that they need. We are working to see how we can incorporate all of these lessons into future learning for the children.

## Summer Holidays

It may seem strange to mention the looming holidays which begin on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, especially since many children have not been in since March.

However the staff (and some of the children) have been in school throughout the lockdown providing school learning, home learning, support for families needing food parcels and giving advice for many parents of vulnerable children. Once again Government advice is like trying to pick up an ice cube with one finger – they really are just making it up as they go and it is very difficult and frustrating for schools to plan effectively.



Instead of waiting for coherent advice I have decided to try and sort something out to support our community. I met with someone who would like to provide a summer camp in the school with a mix of sports, arts & crafts and some basic skills practice in reading and maths. The school would contribute to some of the costs and parents would be asked to pay an amount per day possibly as little as £7 a day for those parents who work. Next week I will send a flyer round and then a Google form to see if there is enough interest – they will need 15 children a day to make it happen – watch out for the flyer!

## Free Internet Access

There is also an offer from BT who is joining forces with the UK government's Department for Education (DfE) to help the most in-need children in England with online learning by offering six months free internet access. Check out the link below for more information.

<https://newsroom.bt.com/bt-to-help-disadvantaged-children-with-home-schooling-offering-six-months-free-internet-access/>

And so, until next week, have a relaxing and safe weekend.

# Invest in your Resilience Top Tips

