



St Luke's News

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



26th February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

So we start our journey back to (hopefully) normal life on Monday 8th March. I sent you a letter outlining our plan to re-open safely and hope you understand our reasoning to reduce the government's big jump into a few smaller steps. By doing this we will be able to open safely, re-establish routines and carry everyone with us. The fantastic news is the school could be functioning 'normally' before Easter and that is what all of us want.



We are incredibly proud of our school family

This last year has been exceptionally difficult. Both the staff and our families have shown incredible resilience and adaptability. We have been selfless and put the needs of others before our own. As families, you have made so many sacrifices and yet faced the challenges with strength and determination. There is much you've been told you've lost, including many weeks of education, but there is much you have gained. We will emerge from this stronger. This may be the greatest challenge any of us have faced so far but it will not be the last.

Children - we are here for you

We know some of you will be worried about what the future holds. We want you to know we are here for you. We know you will need a chance to reconnect with your friends. We know you will need time and space to play and be active. We know you are desperate to get back to your sports/ music/art/acting and everything else that is so crucial to your development. We know that you are keen to get back to your academic studies in school as well. We know that evenings, weekends and holidays are as important as your time at school. We are committed to ensuring that your opportunities are balanced and wherever your passions lie you have the chance to pursue these. We will be here to encourage you, support you, challenge and help you every step of the way.

Our Families

There are challenges but there always have been and always will be: we know we will get through this together. We have complete faith in you. We hope to see you back in school very soon. Whatever happens next, it will just be another step in our journey.

Below is a link for you to explore if you are worried about your child:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-for-children-and-young-people>

Back to the Past



This week the Y6s got a taste of good old fashioned education when the *Freshwater Theatre Company* hosted a remote Victorian School Day. Thankfully, our education system has come a long way from those harsh days of the terrifying head mistress, the sting of the rod and the humiliating punishments from everything from being naughty to not sitting straight, being left handed, for fidgeting or simply not understanding quickly enough.



"Sit up straight! No slouching! Speak only when you are spoken to! Children should be seen and not heard! Repeat after me..."



Don't worry boys I think they would have made me wear one of those hats had I been in school then too!

Lent – A message from our diocesan advisor Carrie Prior

As we return to school we find ourselves already immersed in the season of Lent. A time of observance and preparation, a time traditionally used for fasting or the giving up of something, an invitation to make hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Perhaps this year, more than ever, we understand the sacrifice and challenge involved in waiting: waiting for good news, waiting for the vaccination roll out, waiting for lockdown to end, waiting for all pupils to return to school, waiting for Government announcements. The patience of the country had been tested and strained, no more so than within our schools.

Yet as we begin Lent, we do so with a strong sense of hope, a renewal of strength for the weeks ahead, a light at the end of the tunnel, growing in brightness and leading us forward. The journey has been long and difficult, the challenges huge, the stresses tremendous but despite it all we carry on. Rising from the dark winter days we embrace the new season of spring that is nearly upon us.

As schools move forward over the coming weeks, take time to pause this Lent. Look after yourselves, look after each other. Reflect on your journey, be proud of the steps you have taken. The wait is not yet over, we know there are still more challenges to overcome, but as you walk forward into the second half of the academic year, remind yourself:

'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' Philipians 4:13 NIV

World Book Day



March 2020 – before lockdown

World book day for the rest of the UK is on 4th March but at St Luke's we don't want to celebrate such an amazing day without all of our pupils being back in school. So, the **St Luke's Book Day** will be celebrated on Friday 26th March. Please keep the date in your diary. We will have our annual 'dress up as your favourite character' day with prizes for the most imaginative costume from each class...and even a prize to the best dressed teacher! (I think we all know who is favourite to win that!). We have booked in some great workshops to have fun and bring smiles to faces through dance and drama. And if that wasn't enough the whole day will be devoted to words, words and more words! With lessons flying out of the window and the day packed full of fun with activities including playing with words, book making, crafts, storytelling, dance, drama and so much more! We can't wait to celebrate our (belated) World Book Day with everyone! Get planning those character costumes! The prize could be won by you!

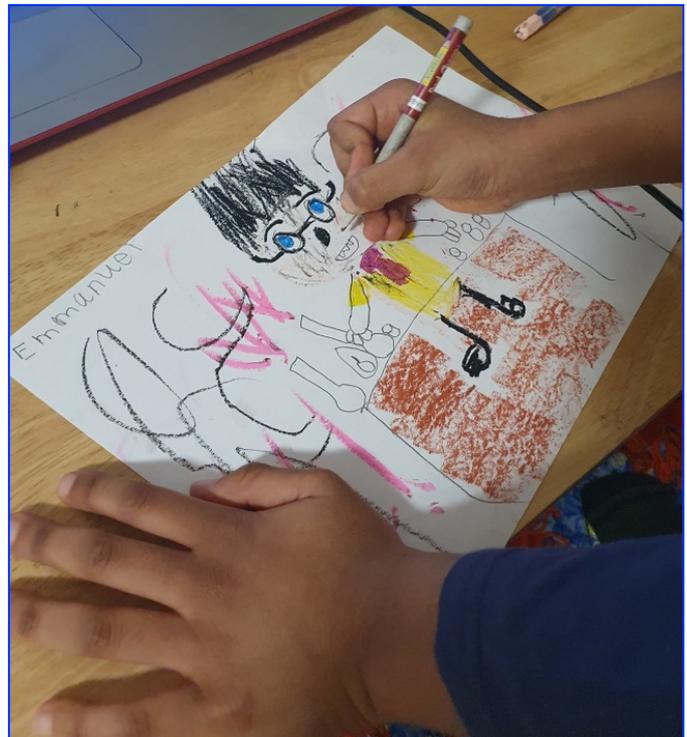
And finally... I have included this joyful picture from Emmanuel from Y2 drawing a scientist – after the year we have all had, we all need some of Emmanuel's joy!

Please check out the flyer below for the 'Back to School' Workshop for parents and carers.

Have a fantastic weekend and we look forward to seeing you all back very soon

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher





GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

A workshop for Newham parents and carers

**Thursday, 4 March 2021
6-7pm**

- How change affects us
- How to address the feelings around children going back to school
- Acknowledge the experience of home schooling
- Learn about techniques to engage with change.



To book:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/going-back-to-school-workshop-with-parent-tickets-143077808577

#ThoughtfulThursday



**People at the Heart
of Everything We Do**