



# St Luke's News

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



Friday 15th February, 2019

Dear Parents

*As you may know one of our improvement aims this year is centred around how we teach maths and how we want to help the children feel about themselves as learners. There are endless reports which present hard data around the accelerated progress that can be made once 'the mind' is in the right place. With that in mind Mr. Jennings, our maths lead, would like you to read the article below.*

## Maths Anxiety



For some students and adults, maths can create negative emotions and in some cases it has been proven to bring out the 'fight or flight' feeling. It has also been shown that doing a maths task can raise cortisol (stress) levels which will affect the child's ability to think logically. To counteract that there are a number of things we can do:

1: **Focus on the things they got right rather than wrong.**

Praise what they get right and gently ask how they can work on those that went wrong. This is not ignoring what they struggle with but attacking those problems from a position of some confidence is critical to success.

2: **Comparing them to other children or siblings will not help their confidence** – we are all unique with our own strengths and weaknesses – let's treat them that way.

3: **Never say, 'I was bad at maths so you will be too.'** This has been proven to be completely false but potentially damaging to children's confidence.

4: Lastly, **make maths fun!** I'm sure you all know that boring tasks hold little interest for adults, let alone children. Everything is mathematical. We can bring maths to our children in our everyday lives. For example, going to the park and counting the number of steps; counting swings or spins on play equipment; counting how many fence railings you pass ("Can you count in two's?"). And explore their thinking by asking questions: "Why do you think that?"

Remember we were all children once and had to learn things - and the things we remember most are the positives. They will be challenged in so many ways but we have to help them not to be afraid of getting things wrong and to persevere when trying to find the solution to a problem - as an 'interesting' person said many years ago:

*"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."*  
— Albert Einstein

## Sport

Football victory! On Monday our Y5/6 football teams played a home league match against Star Primary. Both girls and boys' teams won 3-0!

Then on Thursday the Y3/4 girls (right) took part in the Langdon football tournament winning all their games and reaching the final where they lost on penalties (bit of a regular occurrence for us!). Once again our children are finishing up at the top end of the borough in a sporting competition – well done girls!



I mentioned in last week newsletter that some of our SEND children had taken part in an adapted sports tournament. Today saw our little team from those Newham Inclusion games get their certificates for showing great effort and happiness during the events – a big well done to all of them!

## Community Meal

Thanks to Mr. Jennings and the Health and Well Being committee for organising our latest Community Meal although I have to say the theme of Disney is as about as popular with me as a Ken and Barbie dress up day! The children did look great though in their colourful clothing and everyone had a great time with over thirty parents turning up.

## Buying School Uniform

Remember, our new school uniform supplier is now live and the link can be found on the school website [www.st-lukes.newham.sch.uk](http://www.st-lukes.newham.sch.uk) (About Us>Uniforms)

Please also check out the two flyers at the end of this newsletter (Half-term activities at Canning Town Library and Citizens' Assembly).

## And finally...



A big well-done to our **Golden Assembly** champs - and the Drama Club who performed magnificently during the assembly.



School closed this afternoon for half-term and will re-open as normal on **Monday the 25th February**.

Have a safe and happy weekend.

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher

## Spring dates for your diary

**18th-22nd SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF-TERM (WiFi being upgraded)**

- 25<sup>th</sup> - Whole school Science Engagement Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> Y5/6 Table Tennis competition Langdon School

### March

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Y4&5 visiting Chelmsford Cathedral - Eco Drama Day for EYFS & KS1
- 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - Book Fayre at school
- 15<sup>th</sup> - St. Luke's World Book Day celebrations
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Hamlet (Young Shakespeare Co.) with Y5&6 all day
- **26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Parent Evenings 3.30-6pm**
- 29<sup>th</sup> - 'Wear a Hat' day for brain cancer research

### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Y3/4 Easter production for parents - 2 PM
- 4<sup>th</sup> - School closes for Easter





# February Half Term Activities

**Monday 18 February – Saturday 23 February**

**Canning Town Library, 18 Rathbone Market, Canning Town, E16 1EH**

**Monday 18 February**

Film Club 3-5pm (ages 5+)

**Friday 22 February**

Film Club 3-5pm (ages 5+)

**Tuesday 19 February**

Open Book Theatre – Sherlock Holmes  
and The Hounds of the Baskervilles  
11.30am (ages 4+)

**Saturday 23 February**

Cycling Safety using VR Headsets with  
Metropolitan Police 2-3pm (ages 10+)  
\* No bikes required for this session

**Explore Learning Creative Writing**

Workshop 2-4pm (ages 5+)

Let's Get Creative 1.30-2.30pm  
(ages 4+)

**Wednesday 20 February**

Recycling Workshop 2-3.30pm (ages 5+)

For more information contact

**Canning Town Library** on

**020 3373 0854** or email

**CN.CustomHouseCanningTown@  
newham.gov.uk**

Chess 5.30-7.30pm

**Thursday 21 February**

Games Challenge 3.30-5pm (ages 5+)

# LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

**Your February Citizens' Assembly**

**Saturday 23 February, 11am-1pm**

Lunch 1-1.30pm,  
East Ham Town Hall, 328 Barking Rd, E6 2RP



You can register at [www.newham.gov.uk/CitizensAssemblies](http://www.newham.gov.uk/CitizensAssemblies) and you can also register for special requirements to enable you to attend.

For more information contact [CitizensAssemblies@newham.gov.uk](mailto:CitizensAssemblies@newham.gov.uk)

**Putting Newham Residents at the Heart of Everything We Do.**