



St Luke's News

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



11th October 2019

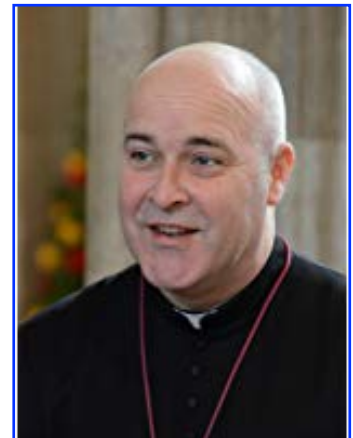
Dear Parents,

Apologies for the absence of a newsletter last week. I had three major issues to deal with on Friday and that took my full attention.

Like many public services we are struggling with budget cuts that are making it ever more difficult to provide all of the services we would like to. We have had to make redundancies and savings across resource budgets and I am continually relying on staff members having to accept extra duties and responsibilities just to maintain what we do. We remain hopeful that the economic picture will improve but we have to plan for tough times! Also please hold in your hearts and prayers the family of the teenager stabbed to death this week in Stratford – we pray that our society wakes up to the tragedy befalling so many children in our community and takes action to protect all children.

Bishop of Chelmsford Visit

Great News! Next Tuesday, 15th October, the Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, will be visiting the school in the morning. He will be joining our worship session at 9am and parents are welcome (please ring the office if you would like to come so we are aware of numbers). There will be a chance for Bishop Stephen to take part in a learning walk around the school as well as having some refreshments with pupils, parents and staff.



Black History Month



Fun and learning: Early Years discover the joy of *Handa's Surprise*

We have been celebrating Black History Month through hands-on workshops for all year groups. The Early Years and Year 1 took part in a practical session around the story of *Handa's Surprise* and Y2 took part in an interactive experience based on the life and work of Mary Seacole, a nurse who helped change care standards during the Crimean War. Years 3-6 had workshops focused on

the achievements of Black Women through history. All of these have been really well received by the children and helped them to build their historical learning.

Toy Library for Nursery

Nursery's new toy library system will be launched soon. We are looking for donations to start it off – toys that are in good state of repair and that your family are finished with. The aim is to lend these out to children and families in the same way you rent a book from the library. This will allow all our YN children to experience a full range and variety of toys and give them plenty to talk about!

EYFS Coffee Morning

Many thanks to the YN & YR parents who attended our EYFS coffee morning on Thursday. It was really lovely to see the informal chat between staff and parents and once again very important for me to hear that you would like more such events as well as sessions to help understanding of how to help your children learn. It re-enforced just how keen our parents are to know 'more' so they can help their children thrive.

School Kitchens

For the last 9 days we have been without working cooks because of a problem with our ventilation fans. Our cook has been going to another school to cook and then transporting it back to our school. We finally had them repaired and now our cook Jolie Mbiya and her team are working as normal but I would like to say a huge thank-you to them for keeping the children fed during such a difficult time.

Election Warning

There are persistent rumours of an election before Christmas. In the recent past I haven't closed the main school for elections because voter turn-out have been very low and we could accommodate the numbers in our Nursery. However the advice I am receiving is that they expect the biggest turn-out in years and because of this the whole school will be closed for the day of an election – whenever that may be.

Bikeability

Last week our Y4 children took part in the level 1 *Bikeability* course. This is a programme we have run several times over the years and helps teach children how to ride their bikes in a safe and responsible manner. We had a higher number than usual who had never managed to ride a bike before. They had a good grounding and will take part in the level 2 training next Summer to really build on this.



And finally...Golden Assembly
Here are this week's 'Golden' families – well done!



Have a peaceful weekend

Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher

Autumn Term Dates 2019

October -

- 15th Bishop Stephen visits the school - parents welcome
- 16th Y2 class assembly parents welcome
- 16th Big Soup community event
- 17th SATs workshops for Y6 parents 9am & 5pm - come to 1 only!
- 18th NSPCC 'Pants Day' fundraiser - non-uniform day

18th: School closes normal time for Half-Term

- 28th Mon school closed for training
- 29th Tues school re-opens for children as normal
- 29th Young Shakespeare Co. working in school with Y5&6
- 30th AM Open Morning in Reception class for any prospective starters Sept. 2020
- 31st Closing date for secondary applications from Y6 children

November

- 4th Y6 visit to the Foreign Office AM
- 4th EYFS Teaching of Reading evening for parents

5th EYFS Moving to Reception 2020 meeting for YN parents 9am - This is a change from original date

6th Y4 class assembly parents welcome

7th Y5 Rivers & Lakes day Hertfordshire

11th Remembrance Assembly - parents welcome

11th Y5 trip to Houses of Parliament

11th SEND coffee morning 8.45 am parents welcome

19th & 20th Parent meetings 3.30 -6pm

20th Y3 class assembly 29th KS2 debate PM in hall parents welcome

26th EYFS early maths morning 9-10 am in main hall - parents welcome

27th Y1 class assembly 29th KS2 debate PM in hall parents welcome

28th YR theatre to visit - The Gruffalo Stratford Circus

29th Y1 theatre to visit - The Gruffalo Stratford Circus

29th KS2 debate PM in hall parents welcome

December

W/O 2nd Y6 Mock SATs

6th Nursery Christmas craft stay and play 29th KS2 debate PM in hall parents welcome

9th Carol Singing off-site

11th EYFS Christmas production 2.30pm 29th KS2 debate PM in hall parents welcome

12th Christmas Jumper day and Christmas dinner for children

13th Jack n the Beanstalk Panto for whole school

16th Carol Singing off-site

18th KS1 Christmas production

19th Christingle service 9am parents welcome

19th PM Children's Christmas parties

20th St. Luke's closing date for applications to start YR Sept. 2020

20th School closes @ 1pm for Christmas holidays- Dinner for the Homeless
@ 2pm - school re-opens for children Tues 7th January