



St Luke's News

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



1st May 2020

Dear Parents

It would appear that the government might be close to announcing a possible staged re-opening of schools in the near future. My understanding of any staged opening is that there will be approximately three weeks notice and, as usual, as soon as I get any confirmation I will let you know.

Every Thursday morning about 50 heads hold a virtual meeting via the web to discuss such issues and there will be collaborative work to see how we can re-open safely. My best guess is that there will be a re-opening but not for all year groups – they will prioritise some groups. So please keep a close check on all communications from the school but understand that we will have stringent safety measures to meet.

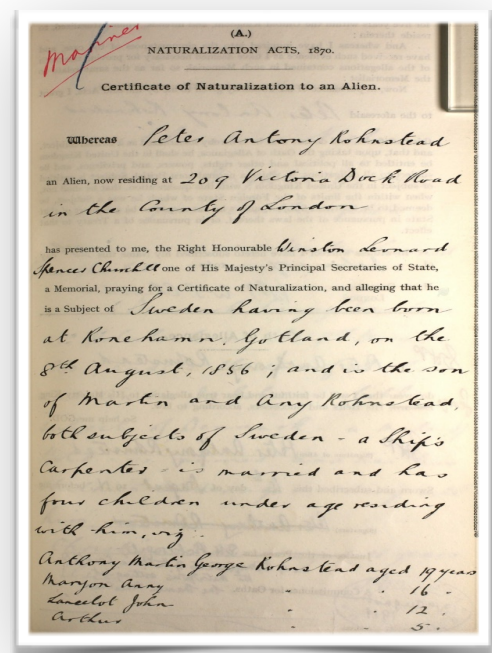
VE Day - 75th Anniversary

Next Friday is a Bank Holiday dedicated to the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) day, - the end of the Second World War in Europe - and teachers will set some work relating to this historic event. It is such a shame because we had planned to hold our own traditional 'Street Party' but we will have to rearrange it for when we are all back together - and perhaps make it a double celebration – hopefully sooner rather than later!

St Luke's Lives Forever

Strange things happen in strange times. I received a padded letter this week from an address in Somerset and from someone I did not know. I receive a lot of 'offers' for the school through the post so I nearly binned this one but instead opened it to find the incredibly generous donation of a set of First World War service medals issued to an ex-pupil of St. Luke's, the wonderfully named Lancelot J Rhonstead from Victoria Dock Rd.

We have started to delve into his past and we found out that his grandfather came to this area from Sweden (the East End of London with its river and docks brought men and women from all over the world) and like so many of us – myself included - he had to apply for British Citizenship in 1910. If you look very closely in the middle of the document below you will see his case was presented to Winston Churchill no less! Like so many young men of this area, Lancelot signed up with the Territorial Army as soon as he was able and when war broke out in 1914 became part of the 6th Battalion the Essex Regiment which was to go on to see action in Gallipoli and Palestine. There





will be more to come from this story including us hopefully finding Lancelot in our school records. But as the old saying goes... once a St. Luke's kid always a St. Luke's kid. The school would like to say an enormous thank-you to Lancelot's family members Brian and Glenis Samuels from Wellington in Somerset for their incredible generosity. When we have completed our former pupils' story we will display it in the main reception area for all to see.

New Remote Music lesson

In a new initiative on Thursday, the school hosted one of the first remote music lessons ever delivered to a school group in Newham. Only three schools have done this out of 99 schools in the borough! The number of children was reduced because of social distancing and the music teacher was in her living room but through *Google Meets* we were able to host a music lesson



for those KS2 children that are in school. This was a pilot aimed at testing the technology and it seemed to work better than Zoom and is more secure! The next step for ourselves and Newham Music is to see whether we can deliver similar lessons to your children at home – we are working on it and hopeful we will be able to do this soon – look out for more news.



Pupils help to make up emergency food parcels

Food Parcels

The government have instructed schools to provide food parcels for those families who meet a very specific criteria. St. Luke's is currently sending food parcels out for 60 children each week. If you think you might be eligible please contact me on ht@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk. If anyone has lost their job in the current crisis could you please call the office next week on 02074763559 and speak to Ms Simpson regarding additional funds we can get to support your child.

I've attached a link below from the Newham Support Team regarding help & financial advice in these difficult times. There's also another *Home School Value* activity sheet from the Dioceses - **and an invite for you to join in with our newsletter!**

[Newham Support Team: Money Management and Financial Hardship](#)

Have a peaceful and safe weekend

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher

Sharing the Experience

If you would like to share any of your 'lock-down' experiences (good or bad!) with the rest of St Luke's community in future newsletters, please feel free to email me on:

ht@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk

We'd love to hear from you.

PEACE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value PEACE.

We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Peace

In school, children will have been learning about different kinds of **peace** including **peace** that comes when it is quiet, the things that make for **peace** of mind and the qualities of a **peacemaker**. In this issue of Home School Values, we will be focussing on the last of these.

All families have disagreements and arguments from time to time.

- What are the things that cause members of your family to fall out?
- Are there particular times of the day that arguments happen?
- How do each of you feel inside at these times?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist"

Golda Meir/Indira Gandhi



READ TOGETHER...

David Tries To Make Peace With King Saul

King Saul knew that he needed to keep an eye on young David. He had killed the giant, Goliath, and now people were saying that David should be king. David was a gifted musician and so Saul asked him to come and live in his palace and play soothing music to him when he was in a rage.

David became more and more popular and a good friend of Saul's own son Jonathan. Saul became more and more angry and jealous. Finally one day, as he watched David **peacefully** playing his harp Saul's fury erupted and he threw a spear at David narrowly missing him. David knew he must escape from Saul's palace and with Jonathan's help, he fled into the desert. Before long, hundreds of followers joined David. Saul was furious and, with 3000 of his finest soldiers, set out to hunt David down and kill him.

One day Saul and his men stopped by a huge cave. Saul went into the cave alone or so he thought! In fact, David and his friends had been resting in another part of the cave and when they saw Saul, David's men whispered, "This is your chance David. God has delivered Saul into your hands to deal with as you please. Let's kill him at once." David ordered his men to stay back while he crept forward and taking his knife from his belt, instead of killing Saul he simply cut off a corner of the king's cloak.

As Saul left the cave, David called after him, "My King, why do you think that I want to harm you and cause a rebellion? Look, here is a piece of your cloak! I could have killed you but I wish for only **peace** between us."

Saul was overcome with sadness for what he had done. "May the Lord reward you richly for the way you have treated me today. I know now that one day David you will indeed be king."

Bible story based on 1 Samuel 24



QUIZ

Spot the difference

Can you spot the eight differences?





FASCINATING FACTS



The Nobel Peace Prize

Alfred Nobel was a 19th century Swedish inventor and engineer. He invented dynamite, which was used to destroy many things! Perhaps because of this, in his will, Nobel left money and instructions to award five special prizes each year. He said that one of these, the Nobel **Peace** Prize, should be given to a person, or group of people, who had done the most or best work to promote **peace** between nations.

- The Nobel **Peace** Prize is presented in Oslo on 10th December each year by the King of Norway
- The winner is given a diploma, a medal and over 1 million US dollars to carry on their work



FAMILY FOCUS

Becoming Peacemakers

'Peer Mediation' is a scheme often used in schools to train teams of children who volunteer to help settle disputes in the playground. Some of the guidelines in the training include the following strategies:

- Listen carefully to both sides
- No interrupting
- No accusations
- List problems to be sorted out and then work through them

How do you resolve disagreements in your household? List one 'top tip' from every member of the family.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Create an Acrostic for the word **Peacemaker**

A good **peacemaker** is.....

Prepared to listen

Even-handed with everyone

Always fair



HALL OF FAME

Rigoberta Menchu

Very few people had heard of Rigoberta Menchu when it was announced that she had won the Nobel **Peace** Prize in 1992. However, Rigoberta was one of the bravest women ever to have been awarded this prestigious prize. She was born in 1959 into a Mayan Indian family who lived and worked in Guatemala. The Mayan people were treated cruelly by the government and the army in Guatemala. The Menchu family were Christians and they believed it was their duty to fight against such injustice. The family learnt Spanish from the local priests so they could stand up for the rights of their people. One by one the members of the family were killed in the most dreadful way by the government soldiers, first Rigoberta's 16 year old brother, then her father because he was a union leader and then finally her mother. Rigoberta knew she would be next, so she escaped to Mexico where she wrote her life story and made a film about the bad things happening in Guatemala. Rigoberta continued to stand up against injustice and for more than twenty years worked as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador to promote a culture of peace and protect the rights of people to live in their own country.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

If you are dealing with a mental health crisis or emergency and want to speak to someone, please click here for a list of phone numbers you can call:

www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/crisis-services/helplines-listening-services

Canning Town Covid-19 Support: Food and Essentials

We are accepting donations from the public, which will then be sorted, packed and safely delivered to Canning Town residents who need them.

Please purchase non-perishable foods and essential household items and drop them in the entrance area at River Christian Centre, Vincent Street, Canning Town, E16 1LZ, Monday and Friday 9am-6pm.

If you are in need of support we may be able to help.
Contact us on 020 74761171 or 07470301364

We are asking you consider if there are other alternatives first e.g. family or online deliveries. We want to prioritise those in most need.



We are a partnership of local organisations working in liason with Newham Council