



# St Luke's News

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

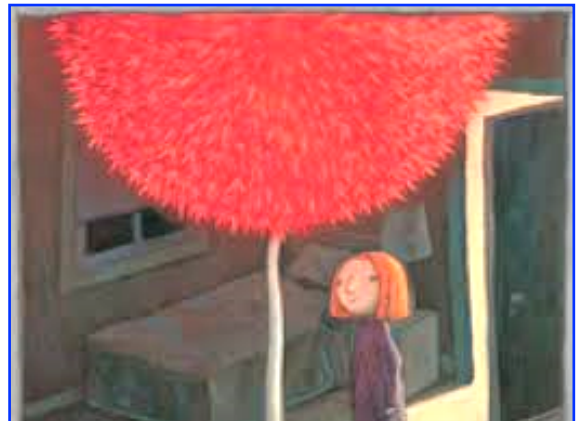


18th September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

*As a school we are starting to get back to our new normal. The children and staff have worked so hard on the twin disciplines of social distancing and hand washing/sanitising even though as recently as last Christmas, had we looked into a crystal ball at today, we would never have believed what our new reality is.*

The new normal incorporates those changes with the best of what we have always done regarding caring for each other and learning together. This week in assemblies we focused on moving from the dark into the light, from lockdown into school. To do this I referenced a story by the author Shaun Tann called 'The Red Tree'. In this story a girl feels worn down by a world that doesn't know, care or listen to her – she feels alone. When the girl thinks there is no-one who is listening to her, she mysteriously finds a red tree in her bedroom. Our children loved talking about how the tree was God listening to her, that there was beauty all around her and the fact that we are never alone! Reverend Amy built on this further during her Wednesday assembly as she discussed the wonderful 'Footprints' prayer (see at end of letter) with the children.



## Stop the Hate!



On Monday Y6 had a remote visit from some people working on a West Ham Foundation project aimed at stopping the spread of hateful messages in our community. Sessions were held on the effects of racism, unconscious bias and extremism – the sessions were part of a whole school commitment to get our children to question the information

they see – to be sceptical about information that is presented to them without a factual basis. If we can make our children resilient in this way then they will be able to resist hate.

## Schools link: Urban to Rural

This week we had our first meeting with a Church of England primary school – Colne Engaine – from rural Essex near Colchester. Our Diocese Advisor, Carrie Prior, suggested that although we are two Church of England schools with very different contexts there was a lot of similarities in approach and outlook about the staff and pupils. We are using a community link programme from the Department of Education but have already had a fantastic sharing of ideas with big plans for visits post lockdowns. The project will be centred around the Y4 class each year – details to follow.

## Reflection Walls

The children have been working on their Reflection areas – pictured is the lovely Y2 area. These spaces are for any form of reflection and are aimed at creating a space for the children to have the time and ‘peace’ to think about themselves and their world.



## Relationships Health & Sex Education (RHSE)

You may be aware that the government has introduced a new curriculum for RHSE for this year and that it has caused some parental anxiety around the country. We understand this and will work with you and listen to you before any changes are made, with this in mind we are going to hold a 2-stage consultation with you. Firstly on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October we will show you the whole curriculum overview and then on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March we will look at the specific ‘Sex’ education part of the new curriculum and how we aim to deliver it as a Faith school. The ‘Sex’ education part of the curriculum is always taught in a 1 week block in mid-June so we will have plenty of time to agree and prepare how we are going to do this and, as with everything, I will treat your children as if they were my own children in making the appropriate judgements. I would love to do these ‘consultation’ meetings in the hall but if the ‘Rule of 6’ continues then we will have to hold Zoom meetings – more details to follow.

## Socially Distanced Golden Assemblies

Because of the ‘situation’ we are holding phase group Golden Assemblies and feel terrible that we can’t invite parents in at the moment – we cross our fingers that it is not too long before we can have you back in.







### And finally...

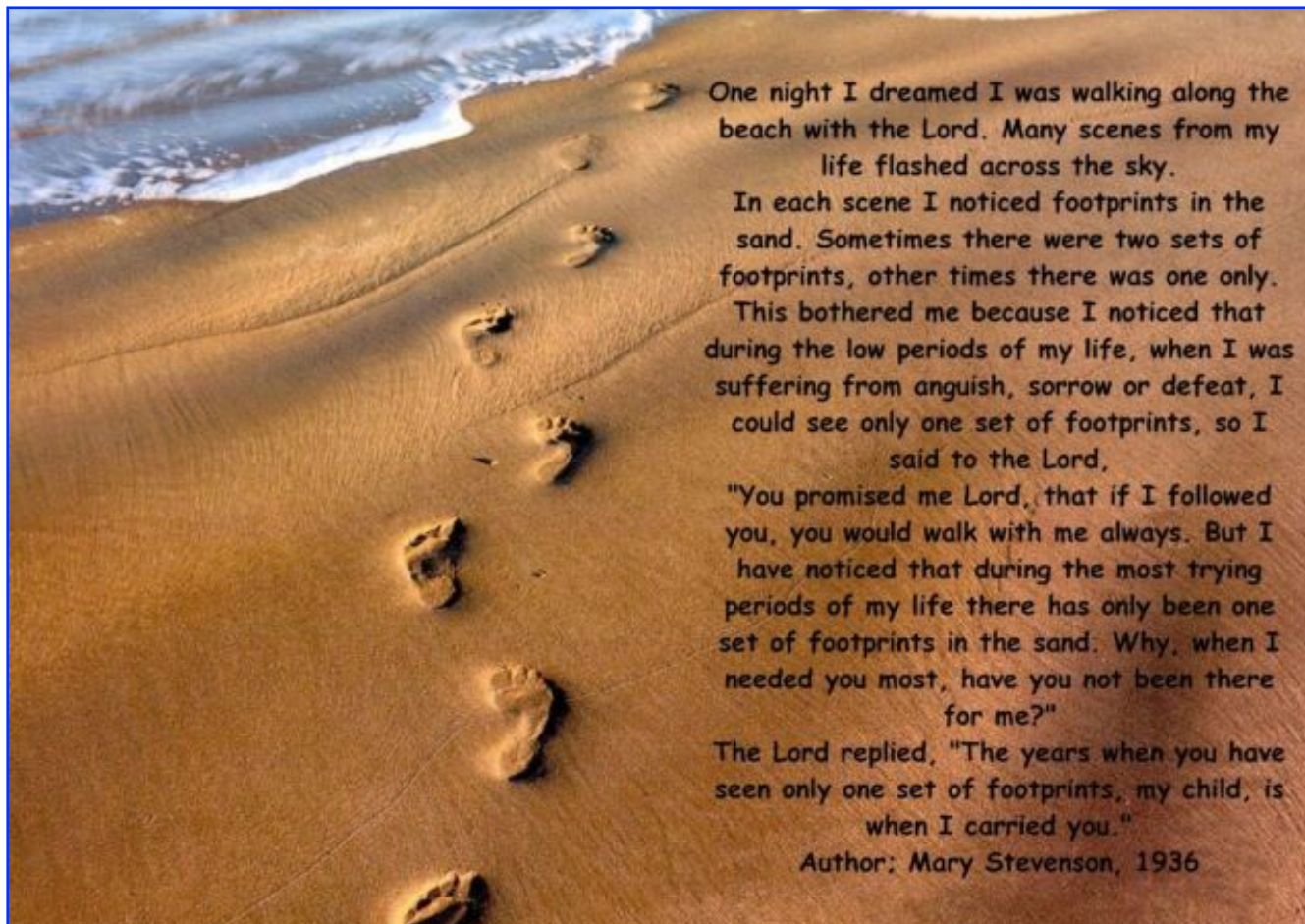
To finish this week I thought it was appropriate to include this graphic. We feel the sentiments expressed here are even more important than ever and as we strive to give our school a 'culture of calm' they will be a guiding light for us.

Have a joyful weekend

Matt Hipperson  
Head Teacher







## KEEP NEWHAM SAFE



Wear a face covering



Keep your distance



Wash your hands



Download the NHS Test & Trace App



Become a C19 Health Champion

Download the NHS Test & Trace app today to help keep you, your friends, family, and Newham safe.  
[www.newham.gov.uk/testandtrace](http://www.newham.gov.uk/testandtrace)

Become a Covid-19 Health Champion to Keep Newham Safe – sign up at  
[www.newham.gov.uk/covidhealthchampions](http://www.newham.gov.uk/covidhealthchampions)