



St Luke's News

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



19th March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

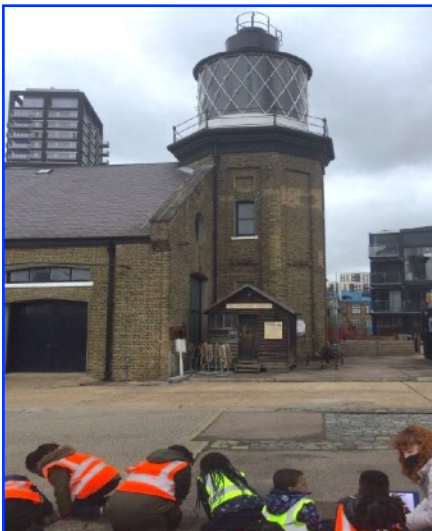
The world is a tumultuous place at the moment – Covid 19 has made us face up to a lot of things in our world that are wrong. In the same week we have been hearing about the despicable death of a young woman in South London, I watched a programme about chemical burns suffered by many children, from bombs deliberately dropped on schools in Syria. How can it be that a woman cannot walk home or a child go to school or to think to last year a black man be murdered because in a time of extreme poverty he had used a fake \$20 bill in a supermarket.

As horrific as all these things are, they become far worse if we just ignore their names and let the same things happen again. We have a duty to call out abuse but even more importantly we have a God given job to educate our young children to always understand that you must think about your actions and rely on the understanding of goodness and what is right that comes from their family and school. By working together as families and school together, we can create a world where a young woman doesn't have to fear a journey home, any person doesn't have to fear being attacked for their race, creed or religion and where all children's right to the best possible education is sacrosanct.

I believe that it is now a time for our community and all people to live well together, to listen to each other and to walk alongside one another once again. Christians believe that God walks alongside us; He shares our burdens and joys and wants only the best for us. He wants us to thrive. He wants us to have 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). And that fullness of life has exploded into our school this week as we return to working with the children to motivate their learning and ensure they have fantastic opportunities to develop – see below.

Year 2s get St. Luke's back on the road!

This week our Y2's became our first children to go on a school trip when they walked to the other side of Canning Town Station to visit the lighthouse on Trinity Buoy Wharf that Michael Faraday (the inventor of the electric motor) used to test the lighthouse lamps, 200 years ago, that would go on to save so many sailors all over the world!



Summer 2020 Reading Challenge

Last Summer we took part in a reading challenge in the borough but as we stumbled through lockdowns and dark times it has taken a long time for the medals and certificates to come through. Huge congratulations to our reading winners! Over a quarter of the school took part in this reading challenge and were awarded certificates and gold medals.

Keep your eyes peeled for more opportunities to celebrate progress!

At the end of the term we will be awarding prizes for those who have made the most progress on *Reading Eggs*! Make sure you are logging in each day so you're in with a chance! We also have our **St Luke's Book Day on 26th March** where our local building company, Vistry, will be announcing a brand new story writing competition with some amazing prizes to be won by the most imaginative and creative story writers!



Who will be our next prize winners? It could be you!

Y6 Singer/Songwriters

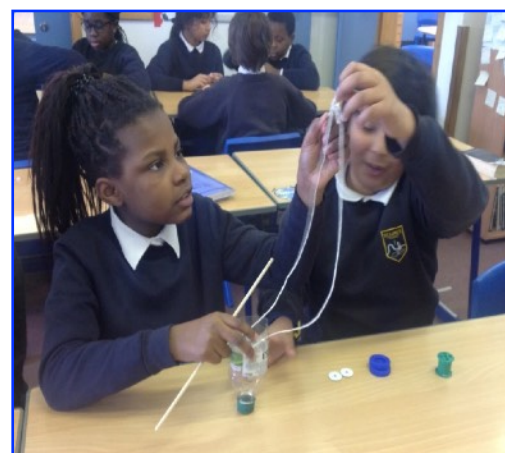
Our Y6 class are going to take part with five other classes from different schools in the borough and Newham Music and Newham Heritage to produce a recording of original songs – created by them. They will work on the project every Friday afternoon after the Easter holidays and then



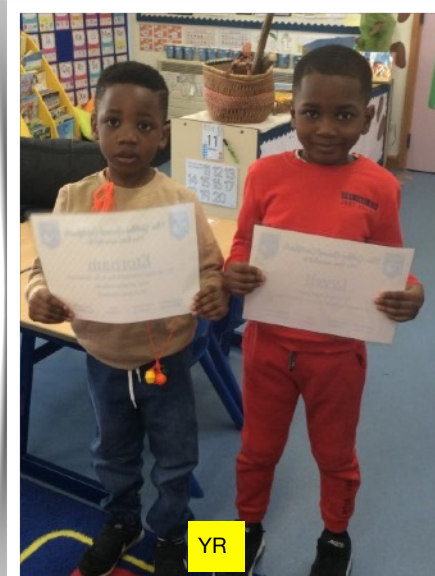
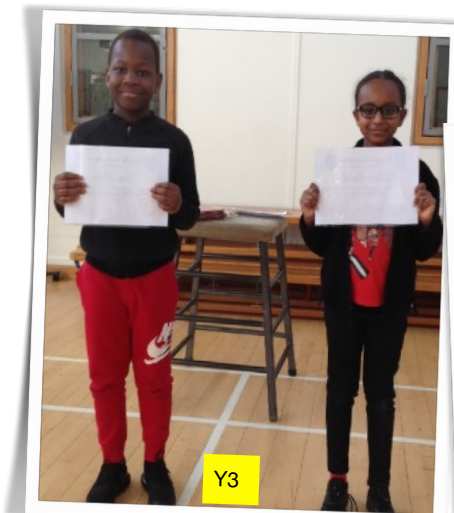
perform with the other schools in a concert at the end of the summer term. The idea is to use our creativity to celebrate the life of Newham and for us that means singing about the old Thames Ironworks Factory which was on the current site of Canning Town Station. And of course you know that the football team formed from this factory went on to become the mighty West Ham United – 'Come on You Irons!', which refers to the hammers used to beat the molten iron into shape!

The Problem with Pulleys

Our young scientists in Y5 had an interesting session this week working on designing their own pulley system as part of a challenge to design the best mechanism for lifting water out of a well. The aim of the exercise was for them to problem solve and speak about their ideas in collaboration with others.



This weeks Birthdays & Golden Children



As promised, last week's Golden children



Start Times Reminders

YR 8.40am from Nursery Gate

Y1 8.40 through front gate

Y2 8.40 through front gate

Y3 8.40 from back gate

Y4 8.40 from back gate

Y5 8.30 from back gate

Y6 8.30 from back gate

Morning start times for Nursery:

YN 9am from YN Gate

Bikeability with Y4



This week our Y4s had their first visit from the *Bikeability* instructors - helping those who couldn't ride and those who could to get better. Y4 parents have had a text from the school about free sessions during the holidays to keep this important skill develop – please look out for it.

Red Nose Day

Thanks for supporting Red Nose Day today all monies raised will go directly to Comic Relief.

But before I go... a lovely letter below. Read on and have a restful and safe weekend.

Matt Hipperson

Head Teacher

Dear Mr Browne... Dear Year 4...

Our fantastic Y4 bibliophiles wrote an incredible letter to one of their favourite authors, *Anthony Browne*, this week asking him lots of questions about their favourite books. Mr Browne, greatly impressed with their writing skills, came back almost immediately with all the answers

Dear Year 4 Class,

Many thanks for your wonderful email. I'm delighted to hear that you've been enjoying my books. What brilliant questions too! I'll try my best to answer them.

Where do you get your ideas for the stories from?

I get my inspiration from things that happened to me when I was a boy, from things that happened to my own children, from other people's stories, from films, from paintings, or from dreams.

What was the first book you ever wrote?

Through the magic mirror, (first published in 1976)

Do you have a favourite out of all the books you have written?

My favourite book of all that I've written is probably *Gorilla* as I feel it's the first book in which I really found my feet, but my favourite picture book ever is *Where the Wild Things Are?* by Maurice Sendak.

How did you get so good at illustrating?

Many years of practise. I loved drawing as a child and never stopped.

Have you ever taken inspiration from your life and used them in your books?

My stories usually do come from my experiences as a child, a parent and now a grandparent. When an idea comes to me there isn't a reason exactly but I find a narrative more involving if it's loosely based on a true story.

How do you come up with your characters?

When I'm starting a new book I normally work on the words and pictures together - they shape each other. I normally start by making a storyboard with rough sketches and a loose story - a bit like a film director would. When I'm happy with the look and rhythm I cut-out the little squares and make them into a simple handmade book. I then translate these images into more detailed finished paintings and refine the text.

Have you or do you plan on writing a chapter book as we will love to read some as individuals?

I have actually illustrated my own versions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *King Kong*, and I have also illustrated a couple of other novels written by other people. I don't have any current plans of illustrating another chapter book any time soon - but who knows?

Why the Gorillas?

Gorillas are my favourite animals (apart from humans!). They are incredibly strong and powerful, but also extremely gentle and caring. They remind me of my father in this way. He was a big man who encouraged my brother and I to box and play rugby; but he would also write poetry and draw pictures with us. They are also great fun to draw.

Which book took you the longest to complete?

Elvis the Elephant. It's due to be published soon but it's actually based on some artwork I made as a first draft for a book in the 1970's.

What is the average time it takes to complete a book, including illustration and writing the story?

I normally do one - two books a year.

Aside from Millie, have you ever thought of using any other characters across your books?

Willy, Millie and Buster Nose are some of my favourite characters too, which is why they pop up quite a lot. I have also made a little book series about a bear with a magic pencil and a monkey that likes books. It can be quite fun revisiting old characters sometimes- a bit like visiting an old friend.

Many thanks for contacting me.

Best wishes,

Anthony