



St Luke's News

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



12th December 2023

*Hope and Peace are here and Joy & Love
are coming!*



Dear Parents & Carers,

The Bishop arrives!

Monday the 11th saw the Bishop of Barking, Lynne Cullens, visit St. Luke's to officially launch our new vision and values. It was lovely to hear the Bishop's story – she said she was not the usual



Bishop and like most of us she has had to overcome challenges in her life, hearing her speak to parents and governors about that was inspirational. She also met with our Worship Committee who showed her around the school and with our Justice Committee who talked her through all that they are fighting for. She was very complimentary about the very active church and school partnership that is growing in the St. Luke's community and talked of how this co-operation can be an example to other churches and schools around the country. We look forward to seeing her again in the near future!

And Christmas is nearly here!

Apologies for not getting a newsletter ready for the last couple of weeks but school is a crazy place at this time of year. Over the next week there are multiple opportunities for you to come in and see that wonderful 'craziness' as we host shows and end of year concerts and celebrations – please check out the list of events at the end of this newsletter and come in for some fun, chat and...well, craziness!



From darkness into light

This time of year is the perfect time to investigate how light not only travels but also how it transforms our world and the Y6s were doing just that last week in their Science lesson.



Meanwhile this week, we have had the Church Youth team in (below) discussing with the children in Y1-Y6 how Jesus provided that transformation from darkness into light with his arrival on earth.



The Great Christmas 'Stir-Up'

Christmas tradition at St. Luke's dictates that a very large Christmas Pudding is 'assembled' by Mrs Aulakh and her trusty volunteers – the preparation takes place during the assembly as the origin story of some of the iconic features of Christmas are explained.

Traditionally, families would gather together in the kitchen of their homes to mix and steam Christmas pudding on 'Stir-up Sunday'. Parents would teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding and everyone takes a turn to stir the pudding mix with each person involved making a special wish for the year ahead.

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating: well, we are going to find out as we eat the pudding next Monday with our Christmas dinner.



Can't wait!



School debate



On Friday the 1st December, our Key Stage 2 children argued over Artificial Intelligence (AI). The debate was over whether we should say thank-you to Alexa when AI could take all the jobs that humans want over the next few years. In the end St. Luke's voted in parliamentary style to remain polite and say thanks but it was a close run thing!

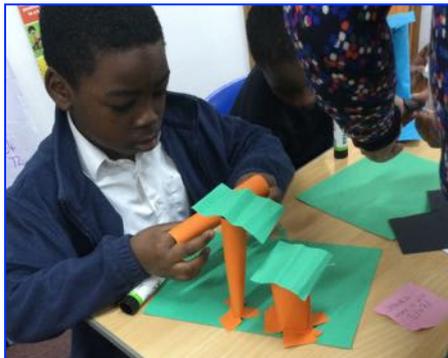
News from Newham

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

Building Better



Last week also saw Y3 working intensely with architects to 'Build a New World'. This saw them visit offices up on Tottenham Court Road before the architects came to St. Luke's for 2 days to study all the upheaval in the Canning Town area and work on how to make it better.



Christmas decorations in Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been developing their sewing skills. Pupils have practised their back stitch and running stitch to create some beautiful and ornate decorations that will look beautiful in your homes once they are complete and ready to take home.



To infinity...and the Moon!

This week, Howard Hu, a NASA engineer guided year 5 through a workshop. We looked at how his current project, Artemis II, is being planned to support a 4 man mission to zoom to the moon for a 10 day mission. Howard supported Year 5 in problem solving real life "space" problems. He answered our questions and we learned so much more about the dark side of the moon!



December Fun

12th PM EYFS Nativity – Parents invited

13th Choir singing Christmas Carols at Waitrose to raise money for River Foodbank

14th PM Little Red Riding Hood visiting Pantomime

15th AM Christmas Music assembly

15th PM KS1 Christmas show – Parents invited

18th Dec. 9am Christingle Service Parents Invited

18th Dec 11.30am Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper day

18th Dec PM Class Christmas parties in class

19th Dec. End of Term Awards – Parents invited

19th Dec. School closes for Christmas Holiday at 1pm – school re-opens normal time

Thursday the 4th January 2024

Have a good week

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hipperson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher