



# St Luke's Church of England School Newsletter



20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Message from Ms Iwanicki



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finally at the end of the Autumn term and after our Christmas lunch today, the children were certainly full of Christmas cheer. Everyone looked very jolly in their Christmas jumpers and Martha and Lulu did a tremendous job preparing our lunch. Thank you to our wonderful PFA for the table decorations which made it an incredibly festive occasion.



Thank you to those families that have provided doctors notes for illnesses this week. Attendance is a national issue at the moment and the Government and Local Authority is committed to tackling the issues that might cause some children to miss school unnecessarily. Evidence shows that primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard. At St Luke's we want the best possible outcomes for all of our children and being in school every day is important for your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development.

Please remember that term ends tomorrow at **1:30pm** and the children come back in the new year on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Next term, our Year 5 & 6 parents are invited to join us on Zoom for our Relationships and Sex Education meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30am. A link will be sent out after the Christmas holidays.

We also hope parents will be able to join us for our start of term service in church at 2:30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

As many parents will already know, Ms Charles has taken a step back from the office manager role this term to spend more time with her family. We would like to thank her for all her hard work at St Luke's and we wish her the very best of luck for the future. In January we will be joined by Ms Francis as our new Office Manager and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her to the team.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff here at St Luke's for their continued commitment to the children and the school.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Ms J Iwanicki  
Headteacher

## Dates for Diary 2023

Term dates are on the school website. Additions are in **blue**; Changes are in **red**.

21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of Term 1:30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Spring Term
10 <sup>th</sup> January	RSE Parents meeting on Zoom
12 <sup>th</sup> January	African Drumming Workshop
w/c 15 <sup>th</sup> January	RSE Lessons for Year 5 & 6
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3 & 4 out at Apollo Music Concert
17 <sup>th</sup> January	2:30pm Spring Start of Term Service



# Happy Birthday



**Adila - Spring Class**





## SLS Voluntary Donations

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new families that have joined St Luke's this year, as well as thanking our existing families for their continued support throughout the year.

There is always lots to do as we continue to improve our school, but with support from our staff, governors and our dedicated parent body we will ensure that St Luke's is the best school it can be for our children. It is in this spirit of support that I am writing to ask for your assistance.

We would be incredibly grateful if you could agree to make an annual voluntary contribution of £40 for each child in the school. This would greatly assist in ensuring we continue to sustain and even enhance the high standards of provision at the school.

As a free school, St Luke's gets its funding directly from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and this enables us to choose our own providers for many services and get the best possible value for our school. However, funding is based on pupil numbers and as a small, half-form entry school we receive one of the smallest budgets in London to provide the same educational experiences that all children deserve. The school has processes in place to deliver value for money when procuring goods or services and the Governing Board review all contracts each year. We are well used to making our money go a long way!

I want to stress that this request is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to pay anything. On the other hand, we understand that some parents may wish to contribute more than this suggested amount, which we would happily accept and will be a great help in maintaining our lovely school and creating an incredible learning environment for all our children.

Donations can be made under the 'Annual Donation' tab on Parent Pay.

<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

We thank you again and greatly appreciate all your valuable contributions to the school in terms of time, effort, and support.

Kind regards,

Ms J Iwanicki  
Headteacher

# Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



At St Luke's we believe that all children deserve an education of the highest quality in order to flourish and enjoy a life filled with meaning and purpose. To support us with this, we ask parents to ensure their children are in school and on time every day. The school gates are open at 8:50am and children should be in their classrooms to be registered at 9:00am. The latest statutory guidance for schools, **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023**, has a specific paragraph addressing children who are absent from school.

## ***Children who are absent from education***

*175. Children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, child ... exploitation - particularly county lines. It is important the school or college's response to persistently absent pupils and children missing education supports identifying such abuse, and in the case of absent pupils, helps prevent the risk of them becoming a child missing education in the future. This includes when problems are first emerging but also where children are already known to local authority children's social care and need a social worker (such as a child who is a child in need or who has a child protection plan, or is a looked after child), where being absent from education may increase known safeguarding risks within the family or in the community.*

Our **whole school attendance target is 96%** which allows for 8 days of illness over the year.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed