



## Newsletter

2nd December 2022

## Hearts overflowing with truth and love

### Attendance

Our target is 96%	W/B 21/11	W/B 28/11
Mango (Nur)	66%	78%
Apple (Rec M)	50%	76%
Peach (Rec C)	48%	69%
Beech (1G)	66%	82%
Maple (1B)	86%	91%
Ash (2R)	89%	87%
Birch (2W)	88%	85%
Lemon (3S)	82%	86%
Oak (3N)	84%	96%
Aspen (4C)	96%	80%
Spruce (4A)	92%	88%
Cherry (5A)	91%	91%
Palm (5D)	96%	96%
Cypress (6W)	90%	93%
Willow (6L)	85%	94%

### Value of the week

Mango (Nur)	Rama
Apple (Rec M)	Adam
Peach (Rec C)	Franco
Beech (1G)	Adam
Maple (1B)	Elin
Ash (2R)	Muhammed
Birch (2W)	Ehsan
Lemon (3S)	Krish
Oak (3N)	Nahiyah
Aspen (4C)	Emmett
Spruce (4A)	Whole Class
Cherry (5A)	Jesse
Palm (5D)	Yahya
Cypress (6W)	Zannat
Willow (6L)	Solomon

Dear Parents and Carers,

Let me begin by saying how very sorry I am that there has been so much illness recently amongst the staff and children. This week, thankfully, we are starting to see some signs that the wave of illness may be moving on, so hopefully the children will be able to be in school during the next two weeks to enjoy all of the Christmas related activities and events that are in store. If it is any consolation, I am in regular contact with other headteachers and it seems that our experience at St. Luke's is mirrored elsewhere. As said by me previously, the only way to combat these illnesses is to maintain a high standard of hygiene measures. Please try and avoid large groups and make sure hands are being washed on a regular basis and for a prolonged period of time each time, at home. We remain in daily correspondence with Public Health, taking advice to manage this challenging time.

#### Learning Review of St. Luke's

I'd like to share something slightly different with you this week.

In this borough, the headteachers of all of the primary schools, seek to work in close partnership to support and challenge each other. A key element of our work together is that we take time away from our schools, to review the work that is happening in another school and give feedback for further development.

I have undertaken reviews of a number of schools in our local authority and this week, it was our turn at St. Luke's—to be reviewed.

To undertake the review, we had the headteacher of John Scurr Primary School and the head teacher of St. Paul's Way Trust Primary School.

Their review of our school focused on the teaching and learning and to inform the outcomes of the review, they observed teaching across the school, in a range of subjects, looked at children's work, spoke to the children about their learning and also spoke with staff about the development work on the curriculum and teaching that we have been doing.

I am pleased to report that their feedback was really positive. In particular they said they saw:

- A high level of vocabulary being used with staff modelling this vocabulary.
- Strong teacher challenge set for children and expectations.
- Strong ethos, environments and relationships.
- Lots of evidence of effective in the moment feedback to support children.
- An astonishing level of independent working – with children working independently and constructively, even in the younger year groups, for at least 30 minutes in a lesson and achieving well.

We were pleased that the children reported to them that they had seen differences in their lessons this year and that they welcomed the changes because they had more time to do more work and finish their work!

I share this with you, because it can be hard as a parent to know if your children are receiving a high quality of education. Hearing feedback from external professionals is hopefully reassuring. They both felt that we are more than ready for our next Ofsted inspection, seeking a regrade to outstanding, whenever that may occur.

Please turn over.



### **Updated arrangements for Years 1—3 Christmas Production on Tuesday 6th December**

The staff have been reflecting on the amount of illness currently and thinking carefully about the logistics of having 6 classes of parents potentially visiting at the same time.

If you are a working parent and you have booked time off to attend, that does not match the plans I am about to share, then please don't worry—you just need to let your class teacher know that you will be attending at the other time. However, where possible, we would like to ask that parents attend the performances as follows:

**9.30am performance: Beech, Ash & Lemon class parents and carers.**

**2.30pm performance: Maple, Birch & Oak class parents and carers.**

As said, we realise these arrangements are last minute so we will be flexible, but we are just offering these times as a guide to those of you who have flexibility.

The children have been practicing hard and we look forward to welcoming you to the performances.

### **Update on staffing**

Despite us generally having a stable staff, from time to time our staff are given opportunities to develop their specialisms and careers. And it is precisely this that is leading Harriet Pickering, our SENCO, to leave St. Luke's at the end of this term.

Recognising the impact of her work here at St. Luke's, Harriet will be taking up the role of Outreach Teacher for Phoenix Special School. This will see her using her experience here, to support children and their families across the local authority. This is a terrific opportunity for Harriet and we are delighted for Harriet that her skills and experience have been recognised in this way.

I realise that this news may be a shock to many of you, particularly those of you who are working closely with Harriet. Please know, that we have been working hard to put a plan together so that support for you and your children continues after Harriet has left.

In the short term, we are delighted to have seconded the SENCO from Seven Mills Primary School to work with us on a part time basis. Also, some of you may already have come across Frances Jessie who did SEN work with us last year when Harriet was on maternity leave and Frances will continue to undertake case work with us as well.

In the long term, we will recruit a SENCO once again, however more than likely from our existing and talented staff. I am acutely concerned during this transition to minimise the disruption to classes, hence the initial short term plan outlined here.

I hope that you will join with me in congratulating Harriet on her new role. I know that many of you will be so grateful for the support that Harriet has given you during her time as SENCO here, and also class teacher previously, and will be sorry to see her go. Hopefully, in her new role, Harriet will very much be able to stay in touch.

Thank you to those of you who reached out, asking about Christmas Jumper Day and whether we are celebrating it at St. Luke's. How could we miss that! I have added it to the list of dates over leaf and we look forward to seeing all of the children in their lovely sparkly jumpers on the day.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

With very best wishes,

Rebecca Abrahams



### **FREE Christmas holiday activity programme at Harbinger Primary School**

Newham Sports Club will be running a 4 day programme at Harbinger School during the Christmas holidays. If you would like your child to attend [please complete this interest form](#). The club will run on Tues 27th to Friday 30th December from 10am-2pm, a hot lunch provided.

### **Looking for ways to build your child's confidence and resilience at home?**

Built in partnership with the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, the UK's leading charity and research centre for children's mental health, Assembly is an 8-week CBT-based programme. After a confidential questionnaire, it gives parents evidence-based strategies to practise at home. Delivered via FB Messenger, with access to mental health practitioners via chat to ask any questions.

Start any time, go at your own pace.

We have limited free spaces and are happy to offer them to parents (usually £30), with no payment details taken.

#### **Additional links for your information**

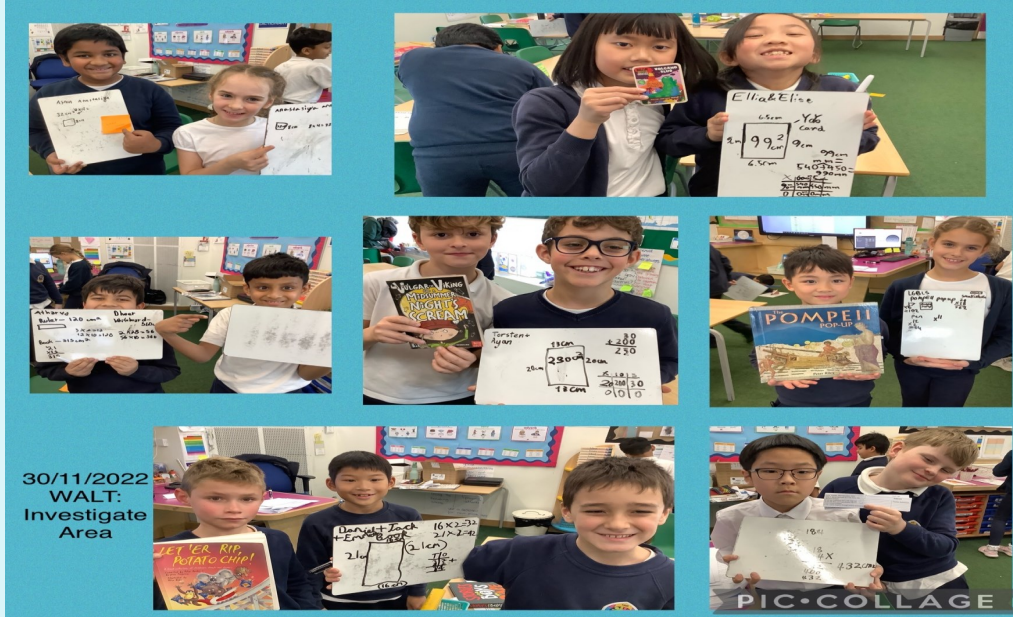
**Musical Mayhem**, teaches children in Year 1 - Year 3 in St Luke's to sing, dance and act, whilst having a lot of fun. If you would like your child to join [Please click this link for details](#)

### **Key dates coming up:**

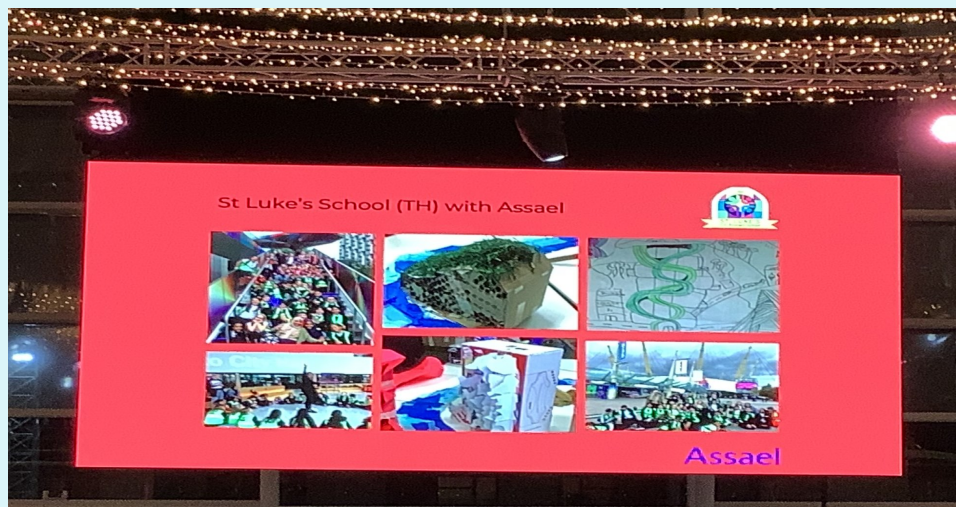
- Monday 5th December: **Year 6 go to Gorsefield** for their week long residential.
- Tuesday 6th December: **Years 1—3 Christmas Performance**: morning performance at 9:30am and then a repeat performance in the afternoon at 2:30pm. **Please see the text of the newsletter for further plans.**
- Wednesday 7th December: **The Early Years Nativity**: morning performance at 9:30am and then a repeat performance in the afternoon at 2:30pm.
- Thursday 8th December: **PTA Christmas Disco and stalls**, Please note – Y6 will have a party on the same day for their last night in Gorsefield. A poster is included in this newsletter for this event. You will note on there that children are able to wear their own clothes on this day, bringing in £1 to contribute to funds being raised through the event, by the PTA.
- Friday 9th December 2022: **Christmas Jumper Day** to raise money for **Save the Children**.
- Tuesday 13th December: **Year 4-6 Christmas Performance**: morning performance at 9:30am and then a repeat performance in the afternoon at 2:30pm.
- Wednesday 14th December: Christmas lunch day and children's parties in the afternoon.
- Friday 16th December: The last day of term and school finishes at 2pm. There is no after school care or clubs on this day.
- Tuesday 3rd January 2023: The staff return to work after the holidays and have two INSET days.
- Thursday 5th January 2023: The children return to school and before and after school care resumes as normal.

# School Catch - Up

Year 4 - In Maths, we had a lesson exploring area in our very own classroom! We calculated the area of all rectilinear shapes, ranging from a small post-it note to the gigantic smart board - what fun we had!



Year 5 had attended an event at Canary Wharf where St Luke's were award 3rd place as city champions against many school in the Open City, Young architecture competition.



On Saturday 12th November a group of children were invited to take part in the Lord Mayors show as part of the London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children.





**Join us in our Disco Party!**

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# Christmas Fayre

**THURS 08 DECEMBER**

**OWN  
CLOTHES  
DAY**

**EARLY YEARS & KS1 — 3:45PM - 4:45PM**

**KS2 — 5:00PM - 6:00PM**

**ST LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL**

**Come and enjoy the Disco  
with stalls, fun games, food  
and drinks!**

**CHILDREN SHOULD COME WITH  
PARENTS/CARERS.**