

Newsletter 10th February 2023

Attendance

Our target is 96%	W/B 23/01	W/B 06/02
Mango (Nur)	98%	82%
Apple (Rec M)	83%	75%
Peach (Rec C)	87%	82%
Beech (1G)	93%	98%
Maple (1B)	94%	96%
Ash (2R)	92%	91%
Birch (2W)	89%	93%
Lemon (3S)	90%	90%
Oak (3N)	97%	94%
Aspen (4C)	97%	98%
Spruce (4A)	92%	95%
Cherry (5A)	93%	97%
Palm (5D)	99%	96%
Cypress (6W)	92%	98%
Willow (6L)	97%	97%

Value of the week

Mango (Nur)	Tori-Anne	
Apple (Rec M)	Rayan	
Peach (Rec C)	Maximilian	
Beech (1G)	Alexandra	
Maple (1B)	Sincere	
Ash (2R)	Yaqub	
Birch (2W)	Zayne	
Lemon (3S)	Alyssa	
Oak (3N)	Anastasia	
Aspen (4C)	Ellia	
Spruce (4A)	David	
Cherry (5A)	Sofia	
Palm (5D)	Veronika	
Cypress (6W)	Ariel	
Willow (6L)	George	



Hearts overflowing with truth and love

Dear Parents and Carers,

So, I will start with the good news today and say thank you to you all for your generosity, because today we have raised more than £1080 to send immediately to support the enormous crisis in southern Turkey and Syria. This is by far the largest sum of money that we have raised from a non–uniform event ever and clearly demonstrates our overwhelming want to provide help and support. We will see how this crisis continues to unfold and consider a further response in due course, but in the meantime, thank you.

But now on to the news that has been shared with you earlier today concerning me.

I want you all to know that my decision to leave St. Luke's has been an incredibly hard one to make.

I have worked in the school now for 8 years and I feel like the school and I have been on a journey of transformation together. With all my heart I love this school, and care deeply about the children and our staff. However, when you have been some where a long time, there comes a point when you have done yourself out of a job, because the team around you are so strong, and in moving on, you give them the opportunity to flourish knowing the school will continue to thrive.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I hope you agree that the two Ofsted inspections in 2016 and 2021 and the SIAMs inspection in 2017 chart the progress that we have made and they were coupled with improving outcomes for all of the national measures. We have also doubled in size during that time whilst maintaining a high level of care for every child. Our school values I hope are embedded in the fabric of the school, and I am always so proud when the secondary schools feedback how St. Luke's children stand out when they transition there, ready for the next stage of their education. St. Luke's is a warm and exciting place to be and I will miss it enormously.

However, committed as I am to continuing to serve the community of Tower Hamlets, I am not moving far, and will still be within E14! And this means that I have reassured the governors and the staff that I will continue to do everything I can to support the team here after I have left, for as long as they would like me to do so. In Tower Hamlets, there is such a strong spirit of collaboration amongst the heads, and so on going support is entirely feasible.

I can predict that some of you may think—what about Ofsted. Please know, that every day we strengthen our preparation for the next Section 5 inspection. If it doesn't come this academic year, that does not matter. What Ofsted most want to see is a well planned curriculum being taught in such a way that the children are learning and remembering more over time. We are doing the work necessary on the curriculum now, and we have the strongest team I have known in my time here to deliver it. My departure therefore, should not impact the next inspection. And certainly, as already said, if support was needed at that time, I will be there to provide it.

And so on to the children. It was important to share this news with you, as it will be in the public domain and we wanted you to hear it through the correct channels.

But for the children, I fear six months is a long way off, so I do not intend on making any big announcements to them. I think it would be best if you share the news with them gently but not as a big deal. If they mention it to me, I will acknowledge that I am moving on, but reassure them that that is not happening yet, and then as we move through next half term, their experience will continue to be business as usual, and hopefully any feelings of uncertainty will quickly subside.

Then after Easter, Ms. King will return from her maternity leave and their day to day experience will be much more of her. When it comes to the time to say good bye at the end of the year, hopefully we can manage it in a way that is forward looking and through which we reduce any feeling of loss.

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all. Many of you have given such support and encouragement over the years and I will hold you all dear in my heart when I move on. In the meantime however please know it is business as usual. The prospect of leaving is not going to be seen in a lessening of activity. Have a great half term, Best wishes, Rebecca Abrahams



Key Dates:					
Monday 20 February	Shrove Tuesday 21/02	Wednesday 22nd February	Ash Wednesday Mass	Years 1-6	
	Ash Wednesday 22/02	Thursday 23rd February	Year 4 Aspen Class Assembly	Parents and carers of children in Aspen class	



Love to sing?

Whether you're an adult or a child singing is a great way to boost your energy and do something for you. Maybe you have some free time during the day or you have a child who just loves to sing around the house? Check out my flyer and get in touch.

I am located right next to the school. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks Clare Cochrane (parent of the school)



Additional links for your information

Free Family Cycle Training During half term - Bespoke course suitable for regular cyclists looking to progress their cycle skills to the next level. **Please Click link for more info**

The Youth Charter Community Day - on Friday 17th February 2023 from 11am to 4pm at the London Marathon Community Track, London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20 2ST. Please Click link for more info

The Healthy Families Programme - A five week fun, informal course helping parents to make small changes that have a big impact on their families health. **Please click this link for more info**

Energy Kidz - February half term, Energy Kidz are on a mission to make memories that last a lifetime with amazing holiday experiences for children! **Please click this link** to see what they will be offering this half term.

Tower Bridge Cat Day - Tower Hamlets families are entitled to £1 entry for Tower Bridge Cat Day tomorrow! Don't miss out, book your tickets here: https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/events/tower-bridge-cat-trail

School Catch-Up

On the lovely day 26th of January we went to St Paul's cathedral for the London Diocese Board of Schools service. We took the DLR and Jubilee line and when we finally got there the building was massive!

When we arrived, they welcomed us with a warm smile as they handed out candles and a hymn book. We were amazed by the procession of banners held by the schools walking down the cathedral aisle, led by bishops and priests. The hymn played was 'All Creatures of our God and King'. We saw amazing and breath-taking sculptures, vibrant windows and the unmistakeable and iconic cross of Jesus Christ, it was definitely a sight to see.

The first prayer was:

Loving God, your son told his disciples to become like little children. Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people. May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life, following the example of the same Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

After the prayer we lit out candles by passing down the flame and holding them up. It was beautiful. Little flames lighting up the huge building.

We were reminded of the story of creation. Readers spoke about how God created earth and light and the night and day but God rested on Sunday, Sabbath day the day of rest.

Later on Stella the star appeared. Everyone laughed and cheered as Stella went up and down the cathedral and told her story. It was funny yet educational. Stella spoke about being the star created by God and shining over Jesus and how crucial it was that a wonderful baby had been born. The king of kings.

When we were leaving we heard amazing music played by schools on steel drums.

In my head I said, "I'm so delighted that I was able to go to St Paul's Cathedral". I had an exciting experience and would like to revisit.

By Max, Angel, Beatrice, Solomon, Alfie, Lucky, Cyrus and Imogen Yr6.



Sports Catch-Up

Great news from St. Luke's football teams!

Last Friday our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 teams took part in Isle of Dogs Schools Football Tournament. Both teams played extremely well, presenting great teamwork and so much enthusiasm.

Year 3/4 team finished in 3rd place and St. Luke's Year 5/6 team won well deserved GOLD! Congratulations!



