



Newsletter

4th November 2022

Attendance

Our target is 96%	W/B 21/10	W/B 02/11
Mango (Nur)	77%	91%
Apple (Rec M)	76%	95%
Peach (Rec C)	83%	92%
Beech (1G)	91%	93%
Maple (1B)	92%	91%
Ash (2R)	95%	96%
Birch (2W)	91%	90%
Lemon (3S)	84%	89%
Oak (3N)	84%	91%
Aspen (4C)	94%	90%
Spruce (4A)	96%	99%
Cherry (5A)	92%	98%
Palm (5D)	97%	94%
Cypress (6W)	86%	95%
Willow (6L)	99%	90%

Value of the week

Mango (Nur)	Frankie
Apple (Rec M)	Arjun
Peach (Rec C)	Joss
Beech (1G)	Oliver
Maple (1B)	Zion
Ash (2R)	Tamika
Birch (2W)	James & Jessica
Lemon (3S)	Raihan
Oak (3N)	Mariea
Aspen (4C)	Belle
Spruce (4A)	Nusrat
Cherry (5A)	Ethan
Palm (5D)	Sumona
Cypress (6W)	Nadira
Willow (6L)	Calvin



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. I hope the half term provided a time to enjoy with the children. They certainly seem to have returned to school refreshed and ready to continue with their learning.

Last half term started with the very sad news in the first week that Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. This coincided with the time that I normally publish a start of year letter and you will recall that I wrote to you and explained that that did not feel appropriate to do at that moment, so I am instead going to share that information with you today.

Last year's exam results

I would like to start by sharing how well the school did in all of the end of national assessments in 2022. As you know, the disruption of Covid had meant that we did not have the national assessments in either of 2020 and 2021 and during those years, children had experienced significant disruption to their education because of the government's decision for schools to close for periods of time during the lock downs.

St Luke's is also unique in that in recent years, we have experienced a very high level of what we call 'mobility'. This is when children leave and join a school. What is clear from our research, is that children are not leaving this school because families are dissatisfied, but instead the majority of leavers have left for one of three reasons:

1. To move to bigger property
2. To move in search of more choice for secondary education and in particular, grammar schools
3. To move back overseas.

This mobility has always existed for this school, however it seems to have increased following both Brexit and Covid.

Never the less, to give you a sense of impact, last year almost 40 children left our school during the year, and all of those children are then replaced with children who take up those school places, whom we are of course delighted to welcome.

I share this because children's outcomes in national assessments are influenced by the extent to which they have benefited from a continuous education. And so when we look at data here, we look at the data of the whole cohort. But we also look at the data for children who have been in the school for at least a year, prior to the assessment being taken (non-mobile children).

So I cannot share all of the data here, but here are the headlines:

	Whole school cohort	Non-mobile cohort	National outcome
Reception: Good Level of Development	71%	71%	65%
Year 1: Phonics check	74%	80%	75%

Additionally for Key Stage 1—Year 2:

	Children achieving the national expectation			Children exceeding the national expectation		
	Whole school cohort	Non-mobile cohort	National outcome	Whole school cohort	Non-mobile cohort	National outcome
Reading	73%	86%	67%	29%	35%	18%
Writing	66%	79%	58%	13%	16%	8%
Mathematics	66%	77%	68%	20%	26%	15%

And then for Key Stage 2—Year 6:

	Children achieving the national expectation			Children exceeding the national expectation		
	Whole school cohort	Non-mobile cohort	National outcome	Whole school cohort	Non-mobile cohort	National outcome
Reading	81	83	74	29	34	28
Writing	67	71	69	17	20	13
Mathematics	69	74	71	24	26	22

To summarise this data for you, where children are non-mobile, they consistently performed better than the national outcomes. For the whole cohort, our outcomes either exceeded the national or were within a child of the national. Considering those numbers included children joining the cohort even during the term of the assessment, we feel these outcomes are worthy of celebration.

This year, now that the children have one full year of school under their belts, our ambition is to strengthen outcomes even further. To do that though, we need your support, we need the children in school and attending regularly. Hopefully, we can rely on your support, to continue working together, to achieve great outcomes for your children.

Update on the partnership with Harbinger School

As you know, when we initially agreed to work in partnership with Harbinger School, the partnership agreement was for two years. I am pleased to report that since we have worked in partnership with Harbinger, the school has progressed well and we are proud of the progress that the community—staff/parents/children, are making together there.

Frustratingly though, the school has yet to receive its inspection from Ofsted and so remains a ‘Requires Improvement’ school. For us at St. Luke’s, our theologically rooted vision summed up in the phrase ‘Hearts overflowing with truth and love’ drives us to seek to enable all who encounter our school, to thrive and flourish. As such, it would not sit with our foundation, to withdraw support before this important milestone is achieved.

This means that for the moment, the partnership agreement has been extended indefinitely, but once the Ofsted milestone has passed, both governing bodies will consider next, what would be in the interest of both schools going forward.

And on that note, I think it is important to highlight, that the benefits of partnerships are two way. The further we get into working together, the more we are accomplishing together. As the cost of living bites us in schools, the opportunities to share staff and resources are proving possible and to both school’s benefit. Furthermore, in both schools now, are highly talented staff who by working together, are able to reflect on their own circumstances and identify where improvements can be made.

For both schools, it increasingly feels like a ‘win, win’ and so we are all looking forward to our continued work together, for now.

Ambition for the year ahead

As you know, last year we had a Section 8 Ofsted inspection, the outcome of which was that the inspector felt that had we had a Section 5 inspection, the judgement for our school may have moved to outstanding. In such circumstance, we now await a second inspection, which may happen this year, we are not sure.

All the work that we do to prepare for that inspection benefits the children’s learning, because what we are refining is our curriculum. In the Spring term, we will host a school event, so that we can share more detail on our curriculum with you. I have placed a copy of our school development plan for this year on our website. In there you will see more detail surrounding everything we aim to achieve.

The next inspection will be a deeper inspection than the last and will assess every aspect of the school. This includes the impact of the school’s work on attendance. I know I mention this a lot, but please – this is where you can really help secure the school’s future.

I hope that you have found this update on where we are as a school useful. As always, if you have any questions or observations to share with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch by email to: executivehead@stlukeslondon.org

Please note that next week on Thursday and Friday, we have the annual headteacher’s conference for Tower Hamlets and it takes place outside of London. As such, we will not publish a newsletter next week as it will not be possible to compile it whilst at the same time engage with the conference. The next newsletter therefore, will be published on **Friday 18th November**.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Best wishes, Rebecca Abrahams

Cost-of-living help

The council has launched a new [webpage](#) with information about how families in Tower Hamlets can get help with the cost of living. It features:

- information about benefits and financial support, including emergency support
- a benefits calculator
- money saving tips
- tips for keeping warm this winter
- general support, advice and information

Tower Hamlets Children's Choir

Mondays, 4.30-5.30pm

Cayley Primary School, Ashton Street, E14 7NG

THAMES Children's Choir is an exciting singing group for 7-11 years olds who live or attend school in Tower Hamlets. Each session includes fun singing warm-ups, learning a range of songs, developing musical and performing skills, working towards performances and meeting new friends.

Join the choir on Mondays and be part of a vibrant, talented team of young singers!

Sessions start on Monday 7 November when the choir will start working towards our Christmas performance.

Participation is FREE. Register your child [here](#). For more information, visit the [THAMES website](#), email alison.porter@towerhamlets.gov.uk or phone the office on 020 7364 0431. [Please click this link for more info](#)

Nursery Admissions

Tower Hamlets are running a series of help sessions for families making an application to Nursery for their child. If you have a child who will turn 3 by 31st August 2023, you are eligible to make an application to Nursery to start in Sep 2023.

Nursery Admissions sessions Date & Time:

Friday 18th November 2022 1pm

Monday 5th December 2022 6pm

Thursday 12th January 2023 10am

Tuesday 7th February 2023 10am

Session link: <https://GR2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

Nursery applications must be made online at <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/> by the deadline, which is 16th February 2023.

Additional links for your information

Free Youth Skill Up Event - On Saturday 5th November at Harbinger Primary School from 12.00pm -3pm . [Please click this link for flyer](#)

Let's Talk SEND Information Event - on Wednesday 9th November from 10.30am –1pm Main Hall, Brady Arts & Community Centre , 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel, London E1 5HU. For more info [please click this link](#)

Dates coming up in the next few weeks:

Thursday 10th November: **Year 1 Phonics workshop** for parents—9am and then repeated at 2:30pm, in school.

Wednesday 16th November: **Reception Phonics and Reading workshop** for parents—9am and then repeated at 2:30pm, in school.

Friday 18th November: **Children in Need**—children to wear 'spots', pyjamas or casual clothes and make a donation to support the cause.

Week beginning 21st November: Parents of children in **Nursery and Reception** will be invited to **meet the teacher** to discuss the outcomes of your child's Baseline Assessment.

Thursday 24th November: **Year 5 Palm Tree Class Assembly**, 3pm—parents of Palm Tree class children invited to watch.

Week beginning 28th November: Parents of children in **Nursery and Reception** will be invited to **meet the teacher** to discuss the outcomes of your child's Baseline Assessment.

Monday 5th December: **Year 6 go to Gorsefield** for the week.

Please see the Parent Calendar for the dates of the nativities. Further details will be shared with you in the newsletter on Friday 18th November.

School Catch - Up

Year 1 have been doing some practical maths by collecting different numbers of leaves and placing them on the correct place on a number line.

