



## Newsletter

### Attendance

Our target is 96%	W/B 13/12	W/B 05/01
Mango (Nur)	87%	93%
Apple (Rec A)	72%	88%
Peach (Rec C)	92%	88%
Beech (1S)	85%	93%
Maple (1R)	79%	90%
Ash (2R)	89%	86%
Birch (2N)	84%	91%
Lemon (3C)	79%	95%
Oak (3B)	95%	93%
Aspen (4D)	82%	92%
Spruce (4A)	94%	93%
Cherry (5B)	86%	100%
Palm (5G)	75%	88%
Cypress (6W)	87%	92%
Willow (6L)	95%	95%

### Value of the Week

Mango (Nur)	Zakai
Apple (Rec A)	Caisie
Peach (Rec C)	Ibrahim
Beech (1S)	Natalie Herrera-Lopez
Maple (1R)	Madison
Ash (2R)	John-Nye
Birch (2N)	Reuben
Lemon (3C)	Scarlett Spillman
Oak (3B)	Aynur
Aspen (4D)	Yahya Rahman
Spruce (4A)	Mohammed Sharef
Cherry(5B)	Sokal
Palm (5G)	Saeba and Sofia
Willow (6L)	Aneeka
Cypress (6W)	Abigail Peters

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a happy new year! I hope that you all managed to enjoy a safe and relaxing Christmas holiday. It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week, and to see their excitement and enthusiasm for the start of term.

#### Coronavirus

You will have received a letter from Mrs. Abrahams earlier this week about our response to the rise in cases, and additional measures we are putting in place to try to mitigate risk where possible. Please do take the time to read this letter if you haven't already done so, and please speak to one of us if you have any further questions.

I did want to clarify a couple of key points, one related to when we send work home to children who are off school, and the other around changes to testing and isolation requirements.

#### Work during absence from school

The following are the DfE requirements for providing children with work when they are off school:

- If a child is off school for any reason unrelated to Covid, then schools are not required to provide them with work.
- If a child is off school because they have symptoms of Covid, and they are isolating while they wait for a test result, then the school will provide them with work until the Covid test result is received.
- Once a test result is received, schools are no longer required to provide work. This is because if a child tests positive, they are then classified as being unwell and would not be expected to do work while off school unwell. If the test is negative, the expectation is that they would return to school. If, despite testing negative, they remain unwell then work would not be provided as the child is off school because of illness.

#### Testing and isolation requirements

The following information is taken directly from the DfE guidance sent to schools this week. It is line with national government guidance that changed recently, which you are probably aware of already.

- The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.
- This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

#### Key dates coming up:

- Cherry class assembly, Thursday 13th at 3pm, Cherry class parents are welcome to attend.

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- People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).
- **Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results**  
Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

## Value of the week

This week we have been focusing on the value of **kindness**. When I have been around the school this week, I have seen children show kindness towards each other in many different ways, from the way that they speak to friends and staff, to helping each other in class, to making sure that others have someone to play with on the playground. It was a pleasure to hear staff share lots of different ways in which children had been kind this week, during our collective worship this afternoon. A big well done to all the children named!

## Class newsletters, homework and chronologies

These documents will be emailed to you today, and will also be available on the school website. Please do take the time to read them as they provide lots of information about what your child will be learning this half term, and give details of the homework they are expected to complete each week.

## Staffing update

I would like to inform you that Ms. Chandler, Lemon Class teacher in year 3, will be leaving for her maternity leave at Easter later this term. We are obviously delighted for Ms. Chandler and her family at this very exciting time, and would like to wish her all the very best. We will of course miss having her here at St. Luke's, but I would like reassure parents that we are planning very carefully so that there is a strong teacher in place for after Easter, and that there is a smooth transition for the children.

## Reminder to Nursery parents about Reception place applications

This is a reminder to all parents of children in Nursery that applications for your child's Reception place for September 2022 need to be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> January, via the Tower Hamlets e-admissions website.

## THAMES Children's Choir

The THAMES Children's Choir goes from strength to strength, numbering around 30 children from aged 7 – 11. Sessions take place weekly on Mondays, 4.30-5.30pm, at Cayley Primary School, Ashton Street, E14 7NG. New members are welcome and it's free to take part.

[https://thames.towerhamlets.gov.uk/content/What\\_we\\_do/Singing.aspx#ChildrensChoir](https://thames.towerhamlets.gov.uk/content/What_we_do/Singing.aspx#ChildrensChoir)

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## **Musical Mayhem Spring Term!**

We loved being back at St. Luke's last term, and our enrolment is now open for the Spring term.

Classes are suitable for infants students who are currently in reception, year 1 and year 2. The 50 minute class will take place Fridays at 15:30, and there are still a couple of spots left.

Musical Mayhem has been running for over 7 years and can't wait to continue classes at St. Luke's. For more information head over to their website [www.musicalmayhem.org](http://www.musicalmayhem.org) or send Lyndsey an email at [info@musicalmayhem.org](mailto:info@musicalmayhem.org)

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School



## Class catch-up

Here are a few of the things the Reception children have been up to since returning to school.

