



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first full week back, there is again much to communicate with you. I would like to mention how impressed we all are with how well the children have settled back into school. Mrs. Abrahams and I went to see every class this week, and we were struck by the focus and enthusiasm demonstrated by all pupils. The engagement in their learning and the positive behaviours that we saw set an excellent tone for the rest of the year.

Safety measures and guidance

Firstly, I would like to thank you for following our safety measures, particularly around the drop-off and collection of your child. We would please like to remind you of the importance of punctuality at these times in order to avoid overcrowding. Similarly, please could we ask that parents not wait around on the school site once they have dropped off or collected their child. We fully understand that parents will want to chat to one another, but we kindly ask that this is done away from the site in order to reduce congestion, and to therefore minimise risk to anybody's safety.

Attached to this newsletter is a flow chart diagram, which provides guidance on what parents should do if they suspect that their child has symptoms of Covid-19. It also details the steps that the school will take if a child develops symptoms while they are in school. All of the guidance is directed from the government, which as a school we must enforce. If your child is tested, please inform the school office of the result as soon as possible. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

PE Kit

On the days that your child has PE, please could you send them in their kit for the day. They do not need to bring in a change of school uniform. This is currently common practice in schools, in order to reduce the number of items brought in from home, especially as we are currently unable to use the cloakrooms.

Birthday cakes

Some parents have queried whether children can still bring in cakes, or other food, for their child to give to their class on their birthday. Unfortunately, at this stage we are saying that this is not possible. This is because it involves increased contact, and the possible sharing and handling of food. Again, thank you for your understanding with this.

Before School Club

As was detailed in last week's newsletter, our Before School Class will begin this coming Monday, 14th September. Thank you to all those parents who have submitted their registration form. We are placing a limit on numbers, for safety reasons, so if you would like your child to attend please do submit your form as soon as possible. As I mentioned last week, we hope to be able accommodate all requests, but we will have prioritise children of working parents and those in receipt of pupil premium, should numbers be too high, and therefore pose a risk to safety.

Energy Kidz

Energy Kidz, our after-school club provider, will resume this coming Monday, 14th September. As they are an external provider, all registration must be done directly through them, via their website (<https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/#>). On here you will find their risk assessments, and the safety measures that will be put in place. Please note that all children must be booked into this service, and that they are currently unable to accept any 'drop-in' requests. This is to enable their team to plan carefully for the numbers that they will have.

Parent Calendar

I have attached the parent calendar to this newsletter. This outlines all the key events and dates for the academic year. Planning for this year has been more tricky than most, given all of the restrictions currently in place. The model we have taken is that for the Autumn term, we have planned in accordance to current government restrictions around bubbles, large gatherings and social distancing measures. Therefore, we have not scheduled in any class assemblies, PTA events or other concerts. We have allocated in a slot for Christmas performances, but we will not be able to run these as we have previously done, especially when concerning parents coming into school to watch their children. We will continue to be led by government guidance and restrictions, with safety as our priority. We will of course keep you informed on the planning for any Christmas performances, as we get closer to the time.

For the Spring and Summer terms, you will see that we have published a full schedule. This may still be subject to change, should government restrictions still be in place. We will inform of you of any amendments that we have to make, and seek to provide a suitable alternative where possible.

Parent Consultations

We are currently in the process of planning our parent consultations for this half term. Typically, all parents of children in years 1 to 6 have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher by early October. These will still take place, but arrangements will be different to previous years, and will most likely take place virtually. I will provide full details in next Friday's newsletter.



Newsletter
11th September 2020



Year 5 Parents: Steve McQueen Year 3 exhibition at Tate Britain

Last year, you were invited to visit the Tate Britain, in order to see an exhibition that your child helped to create. Due to lockdown, you may not have been able to do this. The Tate Britain is inviting families to continue to visit until the end of the exhibition on the 31st January 2021. There are over 3,000 class photographs in the exhibition. Our school's photograph is located in **section 13**. If you would like to visit, you will require a **free booked ticket**, which you can book at: <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit>

Year 6 Banding Test/Secondary School Transfer

This week, you will have received your child's banding results and the documents needed for your child's secondary school application. Please contact Mrs. Sutherland if you need further support with this.

Anna Fiorentini

Please find attached a flyer for the Anna Fiorentini School, which is reopening its doors for performing arts classes, in the local area, this month. Please enrol directly with the school.

Message from the PTA

Finally, we have some warm words of welcome below from our PTA, who hope to have some events back up and running as soon as possible.

Hello to all parents, old and new alike. Welcome back to school and what we hope will be a wonderful year. For those parents who are new to St Luke's, we thought it would be useful to introduce the PTA... The PTA (Parent and Teacher Association) is made up of a small group of parents, who work alongside the school to help facilitate links between parents, carers and the school. We strive to help build a school community that has fun, raises much needed funds and provides entertainment and experiences for our children.

Through our events and grant applications we have raised £33,000 since we formed in 2018, which has been used to provide enrichment for our children, most significantly with the redevelopment of the rear playground which is an on-going project. We have also funded two friendship benches, football goals, sports day medals and refreshments for the children. We've also invested some of the money into things like a freezer to allow us to sell ice creams at events, and a hot dog machine!

We had a fantastic start to last year with a wonderful multicultural event that saw the school community come together sharing food and culture, a momentous firework event that was the talk of the Isle of Dogs, a hugely successful Christmas Fayre and numerous raffles and cake sales. We had grand plans for a sponsored bounce and our Summer Fayre and were saddened to have to cancel these events.

It's now a new year and we are back, heads full of ideas as to how we can bring the St Luke's school community together again through our calendar of events, as well as how we can kick start our fundraising endeavours once more. We have tentatively planned in the following for the Spring and Summer term and hope to add additional events as circumstances allow: Multicultural Evening, Easter Disco, Sponsored Bounce and Summer Fayre. In addition, we are hoping to offer the school Christmas cards and class tea towels, designed by the children, once again.

For a PTA to be successful it needs parents to get involved and we welcome any involvement you can offer – be that a committed member of the team who can attend planning meetings, and brainstorming sessions to parents who can only spare an hour every now and then to help at a bake sale. Any time, ideas, support and help you can offer is very much appreciated! We also welcome any ideas, or feedback as to what we can do, or events you would like us to look into.

An easy way for parents to get involved is to see if your employer offers a fund matching or matched funding scheme – which is where companies will match all or a proportion of the funds raised at an event. This is an easy way for the PTA to further boost the money we raise at events. We believe the following are a few companies that offer fund matching – Aviva, Bank of America, Barclays Bank, Deloitte, Ernst and Young, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, Legal and General, Lloyds TSB / HBOS, Microsoft, PwC, RBS Group, Tesco and UBS. If you think this might be something your employer offers please do contact us to discuss it further!

You can also help us to raise funds by using our Easy Fundraising link which turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the school. You just start your online shopping using the following link and then shop as normal. The retailers you shop with will then make a small donation to our fund as a thank you: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlukesche14/>

Given the current circumstances we are unable to hold a welcome meeting this year for parents but please do contact us at stlukespta@hotmail.com if you have any questions, feedback, ideas or suggestions for us!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King