



Newsletter

13th December 2019
Volume 19, Issue 13

Attendance

Our target is 96%.

Well done to Aspen, Spruce, Oak and Willow who are leading the way with excellent attendance!

	W/B	W/B
	06/12	09/12
Mango (Nur)	91%	91%
Peach (Rec B)	93%	93%
Apple (Rec N)	93%	93%
Beech (1L)	96%	96%
Maple (1S)	95%	95%
Birch (2B)	96%	96%
Ash (2C)	96%	96%
Oak (3B)	98%	98%
Lemon (3C)	96%	96%
Aspen (4G)	97%	97%
Spruce (4L)	97%	97%
Palm (5D)	95%	95%
Cherry (5S)	96%	95%
Willow (6G)	97%	97%
Cypress (6S)	95%	95%

Resilience Workshop

Years 5 and 6 took part in 'Building Resilience Workshops' led by The Kaizen Partnership Ltd. Children discussed well-being and resilience, linking closely to one of our curriculum intentions of supporting children with change and resilience. Aaliyah in Year 5 said, "My favourite part was the well-being bingo where we had to find things we had done in the past week...laughing, dancing, playing with friends...things that can make us happy."

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to share with you that we have been spending time over the last couple of weeks, thinking together as a school, about the school motto—'hearts overflowing with truth and love'. We have been remembering that this motto was inspired by the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, when a stranger who they should have known, joined them on that walk. We have recalled that at the end of the walk, the disciples invited the stranger to eat supper with them, and it was then, when the stranger broke the bread and blessed it, that the disciples realised that he was not a stranger, but instead someone they knew, Jesus, who had been resurrected.

On the main stair case in the school, we have a copy of the Carrivagio painting 'Supper at Emmaus' that aims to capture the climax of the story and the love and astonishment on the disciples faces as they realised the truth; how much God loves the world and what he is prepared to do to save it and help its people. That Jesus came to us and died for us because of the sins of the world, because without him, we cannot be loved by God as God's children.

Together with Father Tom, we have been reflecting upon the importance of the love and truth elements of our motto being at work together and how this particularly resonates with seeking to enable every child in our school to achieve their very best, to strive for excellence. If a child completes a piece of work, we can praise them and thereby show our love for them. However, within our supportive ethos at St. Luke's, where the children trust us and feel safe, we can also have a truthful, honest conversation, that helps them to understand what more they can do to improve their outcomes, to do better and to achieve more.

The overflowing element remembers the disciples eagerness to share what they had learnt—to spread the good news. Regarding our values at St. Luke's we have always shared the importance of those values in terms of the impact that they enable us to have on one another. As a school, we hope that the work we do here, with each other and with your children, spills positively beyond our school and into the community.

We hope you agree, it is a powerful motto, one that draws all of our values together and into positive, impactful action.

Attendance

A brief word about attendance because it has been disappointing over the last few weeks. Coughs and colds are not valid reasons for keeping the children away from school. We would like to encourage a more 'get up and go' resilience. A temperature that does not respond to paracetamol or vomiting/diarrhea do require time away from school, but for pretty much everything else, the children really should be in school. We can care for them in school and if we feel they really are not well enough to be here, we will let you know. Please can we make a concerted effort together, to get the children into school. Even though we are nearing the end of term, every day the children are learning and therefore everyday counts.

Christmas Fayre update from the PTA

The Christmas Fayre is next Tuesday 17th December from 15:45 – 17:30, entrance is free and everyone is welcome. We will have a variety of games stalls for the children, food and drinks, and some craft stalls selling real Christmas wreaths, our very own St. Luke's Christmas Chutney and our very own Cranberry Jam!

We would really welcome your support by returning your raffle tickets to the school ahead of the 17th and would welcome any donations for the tombola or used toys, games and books for the toy stall. There are some amazing raffle prizes to be won, and all money raised goes towards the playground re-development. We are very close to having the climbing frame ready for use, and also hope to have the "chalk wall" ready before the Christmas break. Thank you for your support.

Christmas parties

Please note that the class teachers will give the children a Christmas party experience on the last day of term. Please refrain from sending food in though. With the numbers of children that we have in school, with often severe allergies, we can no longer afford to take the risk of different foods being sent in. Rest assured however, we will make sure that they have lots of Christmas fun. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

A plea for help

Yesterday, when school was closed, Anna A, Lee and I spent time painting the walls in the swimming pool. Over recent weekends, Bob has worked hard to prepare the walls for painting. We have ordered new changing benches. We are trying to give the swimming pool area a 'lift' and so we are looking for volunteers to help us finish the painting. If you have a spare couple of hours next week, and would like to help us out, please let one of us know.

Key dates coming up:

Thank you to all of you who came to support the children with first the Reception Nativity performance and then the Nursery Christmas songs. I hope you agree that the children shone in both. I am sure you will join with me in thanking all of the staff involved, who do so brilliantly to prepare the children for these shows, instilling them with such confidence and joy.

Next week it is the turn for the older children:

- Monday 16 December: Two performances of our **Nativity by Years 4—6**, in church. 9:30 am and then repeated at 5:00pm.
- Tuesday 17 December **Christmas Fayre** after school at 3:45 pm
- Wednesday 18 December 2019: **Nativity** performed by **Years 1—3**, starting at 2:30pm, in the main school hall.
- Friday 20 December: This is the **last day of term**, and as we do at the end of every term, **we close at 2pm** with no clubs, including Energy Kidz, after school on that day. Early closing—2pm.
- Term starts again on **Monday 6th January**, with the children back to school on that day, and business as usual with Energy Kidz.

Have a great weekend, Rebecca Abrahams

Class catch-up

<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Reception</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
<p>How amazing are your children!! All children have worked extremely hard learning all their songs and we are sure that you will agree with us that they were all fantastic... Well done Mango Class. We would like to thank you all for your support, it was loving seeing so many of you watch and joining in with the Reindeer Pokey. Next week we will be busy finishing off our Christmas gifts and having lots of festive fun. Have a good weekend</p>	<p>In Reception this week our children amazed us with their performance in the Nativity show! It was lovely to see how they joined in with such enthusiasm and confidence. The children have had a wonderful first term and this marks all of their hard work! Next week we will be talking about how we prepare for Christmas and sharing our Christmas plans with each other. We will be making Christmas food lists and designing our own Christmas food plates. We hope you all have a restful weekend!</p>	<p>Next week we are really looking forward to our Nativity production. We have all been practising our class song and look forward to the performance at 2.30pm on Wednesday. In class we will be finishing off our topics. In science we will think about the changes we have to look forward to when Spring finally comes! In geography we will be making our own weather forecasts and using the iPads to record them. In maths we will finish off our learning on numbers between 11-20 and place value. We are publishing our UK information books in English. We will spend some time reflecting on our 'Big Question' this term 'How does a human take care of themselves and each other?' and see if our ideas have change since the start of term. We hope you have a lovely weekend.</p>	<p>We had a wonderful time today wearing our Christmas jumpers and eating our delicious Christmas lunch! In our last week before the Christmas break, we will be rehearsing the Nativity ready for our performance on Wednesday. In maths, we will continue to develop our understanding of multiplication and do some revision of addition and subtraction. In science, we will be asking questions about endangered animals as we bring our topic about the environment to a close. We will also be focusing some of our time on PSHE this week, celebrating differences. Have a wonderful weekend.</p>
<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
<p>This first term has flown by! We are very proud of the progress children have made so far. It is very clear that there is lots of hard work going on at home to support children with their spellings and times tables and we really appreciate your support with this. Over the weekend, please help your child to learn the lyrics for the class nativity song ready for Wednesday! Next week we will edit our poem entries for the Beasts of London competition as well as drawing together our topic work in Geography, RE and Art!</p>	<p>Year 4 this week we have been hard at work with our 6 times tables in Maths and play scripts in English. moving on to next week, we will be focusing on multiplication and division, specifically looking at 9 times table (so make sure you practice these alongside your regular times tables!). In English we will be moving on to poetry. We will look to write and perform our own poems by the end of the week. In R.E we will be revisiting our question set at the beginning of this half term, which is 'what do Christians mean by peace at Christmas time?'. Have a great weekend, and remember to keep practising your spellings!</p>	<p>In year 5 we have had an eventful week, in addition to the festivities. Yr.5 had a Resilience workshop learning to become more mindful and taking a more active approach of their mental well-being. In English, the children have created their monologues and performed them in class. Next week the children will produce their own play script. In maths, the children have started to measure and calculate perimeter. Ask your child to measure and calculate the perimeter of everyday household items. We hope you have a restful weekend.</p>	<p>In year 6, we have had another exciting week! We really enjoyed our trip to the London Museum, where we visited the Fantastic Beasts of London exhibit. Next week, we will be writing poems based on our visit. In maths, we will be continuing to investigate angles in shapes- we will be creating some Christmas angle art too! In religion, we will be reflecting on our big question, "How would Christians advertise Christmas today?" We will think about what sorts of "gifts" we can give to others. We hope you have a restful weekend. Looking forward to an exciting final week of term! :)</p>

Community House News

Coffee Morning on Mondays from 9.00am in the Community House, please come along and join us for a coffee and a chat.

Keep Fit: on Wednesdays 9.00am-10.00am in school. Crèche available on site.

ESOL Life Skills Course: on every Thursday, to develop your English Language Skills for work, further learning and everyday life. Assessments to take place on Thursday 10th and 17th October between 1.00pm-3.00pm in the Community House

Employability Course: Tuesdays 9:00am-11.30am. This course is in preparation to returning to work. Building skills and confidence. Assessments to take place on Tuesday 8th and 15th of October between 1.00pm- 3.00pm in the Community House.

Hour of Code:

As part of Computer Science Week, children took part in the 'Hour of Code'. The Hour of Code website <https://code.org/learn> offered a variety of games which required children to practise their coding skills. Eloise and Chelsea in Year 4 said, "We loved that all the activities were open to us! They weren't age limited so we could try different coding games, easy and hard, on a safe website."

