



## Newsletter

26.06.20

### Our values this week:

#### Fairness and Safety

This week in Nursery we have seen lots of fairness in the ways that children share their toys and books. Tamika and Tommy have been especially fair in their play with their friends. Tamika always shares well and she will often notice when someone else has not had a turn at a popular activity. Tommy, returning to school this week, has shown excellent sharing and turn taking, patiently working with others when planting his beanstalk. Well done Mangos!

#### Y2 Birch class -

Ellynn always shows fairness during our class zoom calls by carefully listening to everyone and waiting patiently for her turn to speak. She is very aware of the ways we keep ourselves safe online and completes her online learning to a very high standard. I've been so impressed with Ellynn's 'can do' positive attitude. Well done Ellynn!

#### Y2 Ash class

Aryan follows all instructions while in school to make sure he and his classmates are safe. He always does this with a smile! Well done Aryan, I'm proud of you.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all managing to get some time to enjoy the sunshine. As we approach the end of the academic year, there is much to update you on.

#### Staffing—Leavers

At this time of year it is to be expected that we say good bye to some staff who are moving on.

**Mr. Greenslade** has come to the end of his contract with us. I have no doubt that his big personality will be missed by the school community. We wish him well in what he turns his attention to next.

With a mixture of happiness and sadness, we will also be saying good bye to **Ms. Sorrell**. As we all know, Ms. Sorrell is an amazing teacher, who has contributed to the education of countless numbers of children in our school. It is such a pleasure to work with someone who puts as much into mastering the art of teaching as Ms. Sorrell does and she will be hugely missed. What you may not know is that Ms. Sorrell has endured a very challenging series of years on a personal level and so her decision to move on is linked to her need to take time to heal from her losses. Additionally, she and her partner have plans to set up a hospitality business together, and so in leaving us, she is also starting a new and exciting path with her partner—and for that we are excited for them both. So in summary, I hope you will join with me in thanking Ms. Sorrell for everything she has contributed to our school over the years. I have no doubt that she will stay in touch. She will of course, always have a place in our hearts.

#### Staffing—Joiners

We will have some changes to our profile of teaching in September, because in addition to the leavers, three of our class teachers are pregnant. Changes for September therefore include:

1. Ms. Sutherland, will be working out of class in her Assistant Headteacher for Reading role until she starts her maternity leave late in the Autumn term.
2. Ms. Rethon, will be working out of class until starting her maternity leave in October;
3. Ms. Bell will be moving into a different role within the school, due to training and development that she undertakes in addition to her teaching career, so rather than having a class, she will be providing teaching and support across a variety of year groups.

Despite lockdown, we have worked relentlessly and rigorously on recruitment to the school, asking the applicants to submit videos of remote teaching and to endure programmes of interviews. We received a very high number of applications to the school and Ms. King, Ms. Nagahawatte and I have interviewed a considerable number. As such we are really looking forward to welcoming a team of very well qualified and experienced teachers to compliment our team.

1. Georgia Carney—who will be working in partnership with Jess Tough, leading a Reception class.
2. Nick Stein—who is not new to us as he has been working with us all year, but he will be taking a new role and working with Liz Chandler to lead a Year 1 class. This is so that when Ms. Chandler takes her maternity leave at the end of the Autumn term, Mr. Stein can take the class on through the rest of the year, thereby ensuring progression and continuity for the children.
3. Leke Akinyemi—who brings a great deal of experience from our neighbouring borough—Hackney, and will be taking a Year 4 class.
4. Alice Budden—who also brings a wealth of experience in both primary and secondary, as well as state and independent sectors and will be taking a Year 5 class.
5. Ellie Williams—who comes highly recommended by Liz Chandler from when they have worked together previously, and brings a wealth of experience from working both in London and also overseas. She will be taking her favourite year group—Year 6.

I hope you will join with me in giving a warm St. Luke's welcome to these new staff. On the next page, you'll see details of classes for September.

NUT FREE SCHOOL



THANK YOU

Classes for September are as follows:

#### Current class for 2019.20 academic year

#### New class for September 2020.21 academic year

Children in our Nursery will be allocated to one of the reception class once Home Visits have been undertaken to the new joiners, early in September.

Children in our Reception classes have been reorganised now that we know more about them all after their first year in school, and parents have been informed of the new classes in Year 1.

Year 1 Maple class—Ms. Sheppard

Year 1 Beech class— Ms. Rother

Year 2 Birch class—Ms. Bell

Year 2 Ash class—Ms. Chandler

Year 3 Oak class—Ms. Bingham

Year 3 Lemon Class—Mr. Cavendish

Year 4 Aspen Class—Mr. Greenslade

Year 4 Spruce Class—Ms. Lukwesa

Year 5 Palm Tree Class—Ms. Dewan

Year 5 Cherry Tree Class—Ms. Sorrell

Nursery—Mango Class

Teacher—Harvey George

Reception Classes—Apple and Peach Class

Teachers: Jess Tough and Georgia Carney

Year 1 Classes:

Maple Class—Sabena Butt

Beech Class— Liz Chandler and Nick Stein

Year 2 Birch class—Ms Amanda Naidoo

Year 2 Ash class—Ms. Sheppard

Year 3 Oak class—Ms. Bingham

Year 3 Lemon class—Mr. Cavendish

Year 4 Aspen class—Mr. Griffiths

Year 4 Spruce class—Mr. Akinyemi

Year 5 Palm Tree class—Ms. Dewan

Year 5 Cherry class—Ms. Budden

Year 6 Willow class—Ms. Lukwesa

Year 6 Cypress class—Ms. Williams

I did receive some requests from parents for classes to stay with their teachers due to the disruption resulting from Covid—19 this year. With so many changes, I hope you can understand that this was not possible. In line with our values, it was not fair to provide that for some and not for all.

Over the next few weeks, through transition activity, children will find out which Teaching Assistants will be working with them too.

#### Arrangements for Transition

We know how important it is to prepare children for all transitions. As such, Ms. King is currently preparing a programme of Zoom calls, that will enable all children remaining at home, to join with the children in school, to have the chance to meet their new teacher and teaching assistants. Times and dates for these sessions will be emailed to you, and shared through Teams, early next week. Any queries about this, please email: [cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

#### End of year School Reports

These will be emailed to you on Friday 10 July allowing for you to have a conversation with the class teacher, if you wish to, in the final week of term. Once you have received the report, if you would like to speak with the teacher, please email either Deputy headteacher and they will make arrangements for you: [cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk) or [nimesha.nagahwatte@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:nimesha.nagahwatte@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

#### Final arrangements for children returning to school before the end of the year

We are delighted that so many children will be taking up the opportunity to return to school before the end of the year. If you requested a place, please note the following:

1. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are now at capacity. We can offer places in the Key Worker provision if your circumstances suddenly change and you decide you want your child to return to school.
2. Year 6—if you have requested a place in the second phase of returners, you will have received a letter to invite you back on Monday 29 June. After this second phase of returners, the Year group will be full to capacity.
3. On Monday 29 June, children from Years 2 and 4 will be returning for one week only. If you requested a place, you will have received a letter to confirm your place.
4. On Monday 06 July, children from Years 3 and 5 will be returning for one week only. Again, if you requested a place, you will by now have received a letter to confirm your place.

If you did not request a place in one of the year groups, please note that the deadline has passed and we cannot admit any more children to the Year Group Bubbles. Please understand that this is not because we are being deliberately awkward, but because thorough risk assessments have been undertaken to enable us to welcome back this number of children and our staffing and physical space are at maximum capacity.

As said previously, all of our decisions have been led by your demand in response to our surveys. During this time, that is anything but normal, we have sought to provide **as much as we can** for the demand that you have told us about. The downside to that, is that we cannot accept sudden changes. Despite the restrictions from Covid-19 we will have had significantly more children on site than the national averages during these months. Thank you for placing your trust in us, and allowing so many children to return to school.

As always, the **Key Worker provision** continues to run, and we can accept new admissions there if family circumstances change. We do however ask for a week's notice so that we can plan for your child to join safely.

Please note that the **remote learning** will continue throughout the term, even if there are children from year groups on site, to ensure that the children at home can continue to work hard and be challenged.

### **Arrangements for the Summer holidays**

After much speculation in the press, it has finally been recognised that if children are going to be ready to make accelerated progress in the new school year, to compensate for this year's disruption, they and the staff need a break over the summer.

As such, Friday 17 July, will be the last day of term and the last day that learning will be made available on Teams for this academic year.

Ms. Nagahawatte, will be in touch regarding the loans of Chrome books and lap tops, so if you have borrowed something from the school, please look out for that.

In terms of holiday provision—Tower Hamlets Holiday Scheme have just been awarded a significant sum of money from the government to expand their holiday provision, so please look out for announcements from London Borough of Tower Hamlets re this or see their website.

Additionally, Energy Kidz are looking to provide their holiday scheme on our school site as they normally would. I know that they have already text parents, so please look out for those messages or have a look at their website: [www.energy-kidz.co.uk/](http://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/) Attached is further information and this will also be available soon on our school website.

### **Planning for school return in September**

We are all desperately hoping that all children and staff will be able to return to school in September. Certainly it feels as though guidance from the government is moving in that direction. We have been told that we will receive final guidance in the next few weeks. Despite the thinking we are doing in school, I am loathed to say anything until the final guidance from the DfE has been received. As such, please understand, that it may only be in the final newsletter of the school year, that I will be able to confirm plans. This will be drafted sooner if possible, but no later than Friday 17 July 2020.

### **School to school support**

I have been touched by your many messages of support this week. I am so pleased that so many of you recognise that being asked to support another school, is testament to the very positive view held of this school by the Local Authority, that has developed over recent years.

Nationally there is an ongoing debate with a significant school of thought wanting to remove the 'outstanding' judgement from Ofsted. This is because Ofsted reports capture a moment in time, often based on historical data, and not always reflected in a school every day, every week or every year.

This is because all schools are dynamic organisations, that are designed to evolve and change, responding to ever shifting goal posts and demands, and also changes in their communities and the staff that serve them.

Being asked to support another school however, acknowledges a school's journey, but is a significant vote of confidence in the school to be a leader for change and for others.

I am not surprised that some of you may be worried about the change, but I want to reassure you all of the following. I am not going to turn my back on this school. I love this school. In any event, this partnership will only work if St. Luke's remains strong and continues to grow.

In terms of capacity at St. Luke's, the only reason we were able to consider this partnership, is because we have so many talented staff and future leaders already working in the school. I have long been worrying about how we can hold onto those staff and provide the opportunity for them to further their careers with us.

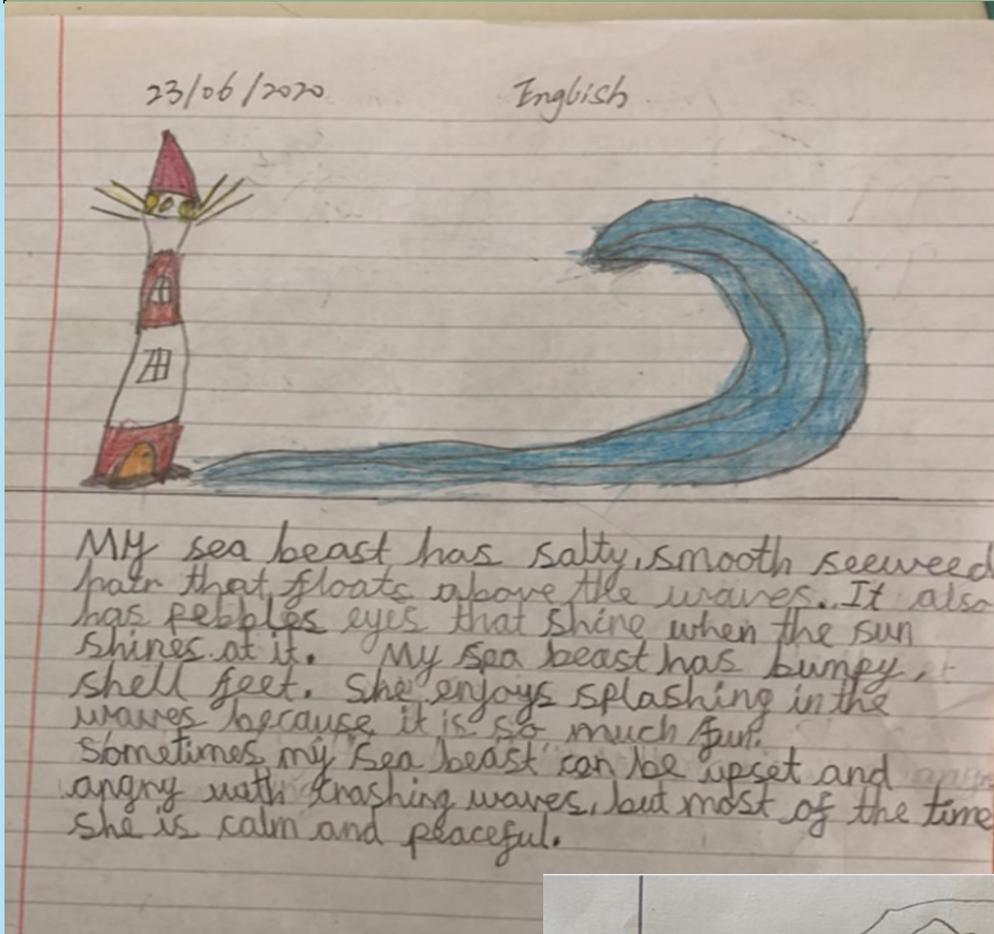
With the school taking on a greater role in the community, more opportunities open up for the staff already with us.

I would agree that the timing does not feel ideal, but please understand that the discussions regarding this partnership started long before this pandemic. As such, and given Harbinger does not have a headteacher for September, the governors and I feel it remains our responsibility to support the school.

As well as responding to this pandemic, in school we are undertaking a considerable amount of planning to make sure 'all of our ducks are in a row' and in the new year, St. Luke's can continue to go from strength to strength.

Have a great weekend, Best wishes, Rebecca Abrahams

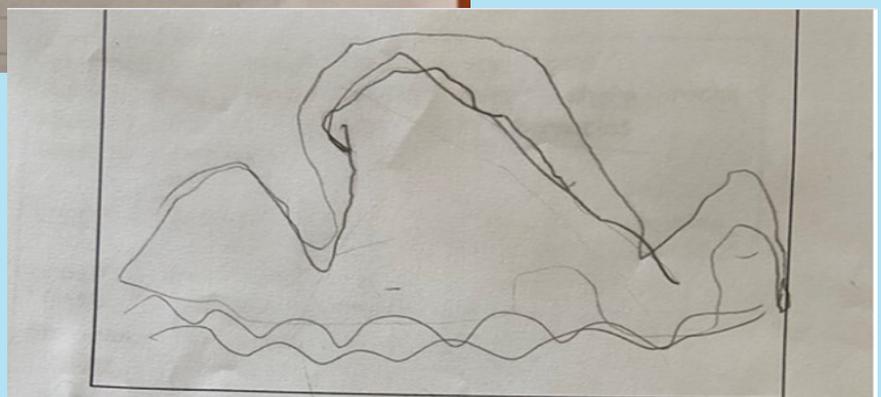
This week I am delighted that we have some Year 1 work to share. Ms Rotheron wrote to Ms. Abrahams saying, 'I'm really impressed at the level of effort that the some children continue to put into their home learning and the quality of their writing and art work felt too good not to share! John in Beech class particularly has made fantastic progress over the course of the year from when he started.



#### Jade Year 1 Beech

In Year 1 we have been looking at Sea poems and have been using the poems 'Beastly Invitation' by Celia Warren and 'Storm Man' by Grace Nichol to inspire us to write our own descriptions of the sea as a 'beast'.

My sea beast has salty, smooth seaweed hair that floats above the waves. It also has pebbles eyes that shine when the sun shines at it. My sea beast has bumpy, shell feet. She enjoys splashing in the waves because it is so much fun. Sometimes my sea beast can be upset and angry with crashing waves, but most of the time she is calm and peaceful.

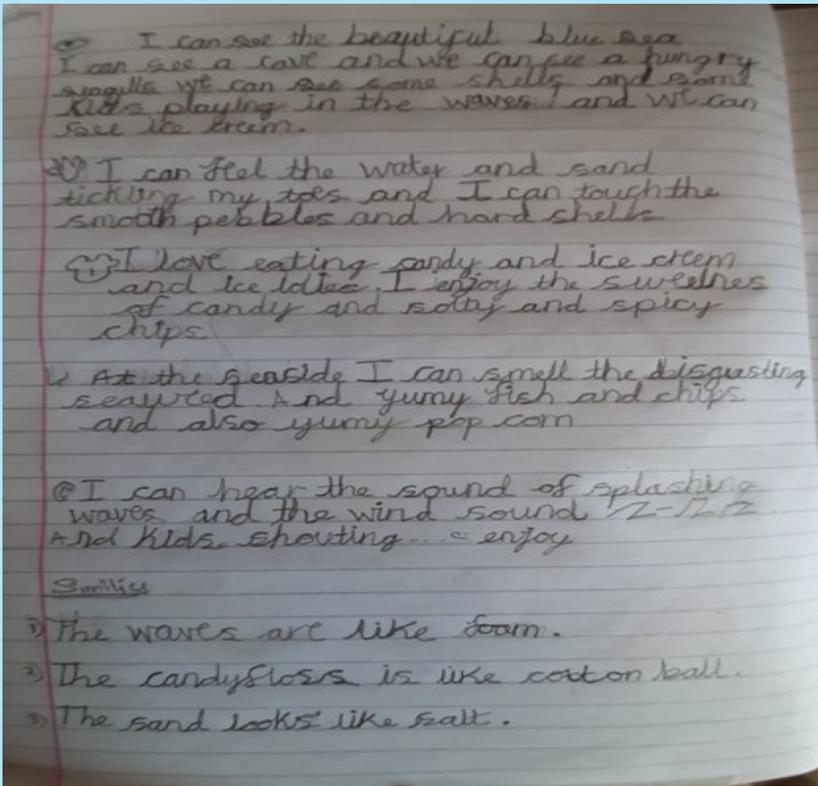


#### John—Year 1 Beech Class

Fabulous spelling and great use of adjectives!

I can really imagine being at the seaside after reading this!!

My sea beast has big and loud mouth. His face is blue and white and it is covered with seaweed. His skin is made of soft coral and sharp slippery rocks covered in limpets. His hair is made of seashells and pebbles. Sometimes he can be calm and inviting but he can be also so angry and frightening. He is mysterious and beautiful.



**Hansik Year 1 Maple**  
We have been planning our own sea-side poems, this is Hansik's detailed description of what he likes to do at the seaside.

The Year 1 children have also done some great art work as well!! Well done Hansik, Charlotte, John and Jade.



We also have some beautiful art work from the classes in Year 2 too...

In Year 2, our art lessons have focused on Africa (to link with our Geography topic). This week we have made amazing African sunsets! We are sure you will agree they are spectacular!

Yahya



Vivaan



Sarvesh



Atulit



Taylor

And we finish this week with some notices and updates for parents.

**Update re packed lunches:**

We know there have been some questions around what children are allowed to bring in their packed lunches. As a Healthy School we aim to provide balanced school meals, despite the current challenging circumstances. When cakes or biscuits are the dessert option, this is after a healthy main course and they are still made with a reduced sugar content.

Therefore, packed lunches should also be balanced. So long as the rest of the packed lunch is healthy one treat, of reasonable child size proportions, is fine. We remain a nut free school, and would also ask you to avoid sweets and bars of chocolate.

We hope this clears up any confusion. We would remind you, that although children can bring in a packed lunch if they are unable to eat the school lunch, that no other food or objects are to be brought in from home.

A copy of the school's cold menu is attached with this newsletter.

## Roblox

A parent has brought to our attention that, whilst their child was playing Roblox, they received highly inappropriate messages from strangers, messages of a 'mature' content. There have also been reports of Roblox being used by individuals/groups as a platform to voice opinions on political matters, which has included overtly racist language. Whilst the games may be popular with children in primary school, Roblox is aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds and there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. As this parent did, please monitor your child's use of the internet and gaming online. As always, we encourage children and adults to report inappropriate messages on these platforms. We have also attached a parent guide to Roblox with further information.

## UK Parliament Teacher Gold Ambassador Award

Last January, Mr Griffiths attended a training event at Westminster with teachers from across the UK designed to help encourage children to take a greater interest in politics and democracy. Since then we have run training sessions for staff from our school and other schools within the Isle of Dogs, provided more books about democracy in classrooms, celebrated Parliament Week with a whole class assembly and also set up the Isle Of Dogs Pupil Parliament. The Pupil Parliament saw school councils from 7 schools meet up to discuss issues relevant to the Isle of Dogs. We hope our school council continues to go from strength to strength in our work with others schools after receiving this award.



## Updated guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from coronavirus (COVID-19)

On 22 June, the Government set out a series of steps for further relaxing shielding guidance which will come into effect on 6 July and 1 August, taking into account that coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rates have decreased significantly over the last few weeks.

From 1 August, the Government will be advising that shielding will be paused. From this date, those people previously shielding are advised to adopt strict social distancing rather than full shielding measures. Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can return to their education settings if they are eligible and in line with their peers.

Where possible children should practice frequent hand washing and social distancing. The Public Health England guidance for people who are shielding has been updated to reflect the changes.

The full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>