



St Luke's C E First School

13th
December
2024

Dates for your Diary

December

Monday 16th –
Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17th-
Christmas
Experience at the
Bridge Church. All
classes to attend

Friday 20th – Last
Day of Term

January

Monday 6th – TED
school closed to
pupils

Tuesday 7th – First
day back for the
spring term!

Thursday 9th –
Lion class first
swimming

Wednesday 22nd –
Elephants Class
Sporthall Athletics
at Trinity High
School



This week...

This week has been all about our Christmas performances, and what a treat they have been! Our Tigers and Lions got us started on Monday with a wonderful performance of 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All'. From the singing, acting and narrating, to the brilliant actions to accompany the songs, you were all superb! Our youngest children in Bears class followed on Tuesday with another two excellent performances. Our audiences were in awe of their confidence and how well they remembered their song words and positions. And, finally our Giraffes and Elephants have finished this wonderful week of performances with their stunning rendition of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'.

Thank you to all parents, carers and family members who came along to see the performances. So many of you came twice, which tells us you must have really enjoyed it the first time around!

We have had such lovely comments from adults as they left each show, including some of guests we invited. The Tigers' coach driver who has taken them to swimming lessons each week came to both performances and absolutely loved it! We have since received an email from the bus company thanking us and commending our children on how beautifully behaved they are!

Bears Class Trip

Our Bears class have had a very exciting week as their performances were followed by a trip to the theatre to watch 'Finding Santa'. Everyone had a wonderful time and the staff have fed back about how sensible the children were. Well done Bears on your very first class trip!

Attendance:

Our attendance to date is **95.25%**.

Please **do not** send Dojo messages as these may not be picked up and we will still contact you by telephone.



Bears	Giraffes	Elephants	Tigers	Lions	Whole School
89.12%	94.67%	93.85%	96.43%	96.21%	94.06%

Spring 1 Clubs

This week we have sent out our spring 1 clubs letter. Please return the form by Tuesday 17th December so that Mrs Cox has time to arrange her last set of clubs lists and inform parents before we break up on Friday 20th. Thank you. Please consider which clubs you would like to sign up for and ensure your child attends these each week, unless they are unwell and not in school. If a child misses 2 clubs, we will take them off the list and see if there is someone on the waiting list to replace them. If you are successful in gaining a place in one of our sport clubs, we will write to you separately about the school uniform expectations on that day.

ECO Team

Thank you to everyone who has helped the Eco Council raise funds for the group and OPAL by asking families to recycle their unwanted clothes. On Monday, we had a visit from Rags2Riches4Schools and we had collected 50 bags of clothing! These were then weighed by Mark who then presented the group with a cheque for £45. I would like to thank Mrs Griffiths and the ECO team for all their work on this, what a great result!



The Eco Council are working towards receiving the Eco flag at the end of the school year. With that in mind, we are aiming to do a litter pick at the beginning of the Spring term. Watch this space for more details.

Santa Breakfast & Christmas

What an exciting start to our day we have had today! A Christmassy breakfast and a visit from Father Christmas himself! Each class has then visited the grotto throughout the day to meet Santa and receive a Christmas gift. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising these lovely events for the children. Please see class Dojo for more photos!



Christmas is coming...final dates!

Monday 16th December – Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Experience at The Bridge Church. All classes will be walking to the church to take part in this year's Christmas Experience led by Reverend Ruth and her team.



St Luke's Stars of the Week

Due to the Christmas Fair this afternoon, we have been unable to hold our usual Friday Celebration Worship. Our next celebration worship will be on Friday 20th December at 9am.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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