



St Luke's C E First School

29th
November
2024

Dates for your Diary

December

Tuesday 3rd –
Choir to visit
Plymouth Court

Friday 6th – Santa
Dash

Monday 9th – ECO
Team Rags to
Riches collection

Monday 9th – KS2
Performances

Tuesday 10th –
Reception
Performances

Wednesday 11th –
Bears trip to the
theatre

Thursday 12th -
KS1 Performances

Friday 13th – Santa
Breakfast &
Grotto/Christmas
Jumper Day/PTA
Christmas Fayre

Monday 16th –
Christmas Lunch

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



This week...

This is always a very busy time in school. We are quickly approaching Christmas performances and other exciting events. The school is buzzing with singing practices and rehearsals in the hall, as well as excitement as we get ready to put the Christmas decorations up around school!

Our Christmas post box will be open from Monday 2nd December for the children to post their cards to their friends. Please ensure all cards are labelled clearly with the child's name and class.

Please check the dates list to the left of the newsletter and double check the dates and times of your child/ren's Christmas performances. On top of all the practicing the children are doing, we will soon be making Christmas cards and calendars and enjoying activities such as the Santa Dash and the PTA Christmas events.

Attendance:

This week, we have received information from the School Nurse team regarding illnesses which would mean your child can not attend school, along with the length of time it is recommended they stay at home. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter, which can be read in conjunction with the DfE guidance 'is my child too ill for school' – which can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Our attendance to date is **95.62%**.

*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
88.03%	96.33%	93.08%	99.29%	96.79%	94.73%

Bears Class Work with Me

On Wednesday, Mrs Broughton and Mrs Larsen led our first work with me session for Bears class. It was wonderful to see so many parents in school learning about our phonics programme and how best to support your child at home, and the children really enjoyed being able to show off their classroom and their reading skills! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend – we look forward to welcoming you back for another work with me session soon.



School Uniform

As we approach the end of the first term of school, please continue to ensure we maintain our high expectations of school uniform. For sport clubs, we ask that the children come to school wearing school uniform and bring trainers to change into, unless they are already wearing their PE kit for PE that day. Can we also please ask that footwear is plain white or black in colour. Some pupils are wearing very brightly coloured trainers, which is not in line with our school uniform policy. We thank you for your support with this.

OPAL Update

Our OPAL play continues to go from strength to strength. This week myself and members of the play team have received risk management training from Kaleigh, our OPAL mentor. Further information will be shared shortly about our next steps for developing play here at St Luke's. In the meantime, I wanted to share how impressed Kaleigh was with the work we have done so far and what she saw in terms of our play offer during her visit. Kaleigh commented on the fantastic environment Mrs Burling and the play team have created and was struck by how happy and engaged the children were. She described our lunch time play as 'joyous', with staff and pupils alike showing happiness in the activities. She also spotted a lot of cross aged play, with children across different year groups all playing together really well. Reverend Ruth, our OPAL governor, was also on the playground observing the play and talking to the children about what they are enjoying. She was struck by how positively the children talk about their play experiences, with the most common message being 'we love it!' Our OPAL play policy has recently been approved by Governors and can be found on our school website in the curriculum/OPAL Playtimes section.



Parking

Despite the information in last week's newsletter about parking around school, this week I have needed to speak to a parent parked on the yellow zig zags outside of school and I am still being informed of other inappropriate and dangerous parking, such as parking on double yellow lines on the bend of Plymouth Road.

I have also seen twice this week a car parked in the entrance to the church car park. This is not a designated car parking space and should not be used as one. If you arrive at the car park and there are no spaces, please find an alternative, designated space to park your car - do not leave it where it creates an obstacle for other drivers and pedestrians.

Please support us to ensure our children feel safe on their way in and out of school by driving carefully and parking safely. Thank you.

ECO Team

Don't forget, our ECO team has signed up to the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme, to raise money and help others around the world benefit from our good quality unwanted clothes and shoes. We get 40p for every kilo we collect of reusable items towards the Eco Council and OPAL, and we would be most grateful if you could help us with this challenge at home.



We have a collection booked on Monday 9th December 2024 so if you are planning to have a clear out, please keep good clothing to donate to us on this date. Thank you.

Botany Bay Christmas Tree

Over the past couple of weeks, all classes have been creating some decorations for us to add to a cardboard Christmas tree which will be displayed at Botany Bay Garden Centre in Astwood Bank. The lady collecting it said it was the best one she'd seen! Why not pop along to the garden centre to see it displayed over the coming weeks? Thank you to Mrs Hirons-Reed and Mrs Burling for co-ordinating all the work for this and putting it together.



Christmas is coming...important dates!

Friday 6th December - Santa Dash – Don't forget to bring your Christmassy hat to wear to take part in the Santa Dash.

Friday 13th December – Santa Breakfast & Christmas Fayre. Our PTA will be holding our annual Santa breakfast and grotto. All children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day. Please see the letter which has gone home today, and the Class Dojo post advertising this event, for further details. After school, the PTA will be holding their Christmas Fayre. Please put aside some time to come and join us in the school hall to take part in this event and help raise some money for our school.

Here is the information that the PTA have shared on class Dojo today about the Christmas Fayre:

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2024

On Friday 13th December we are holding our Christmas fayre for all parents/carers and children at the school. We are kindly asking for raffle prize and tombola donations. We would be grateful if you could donate any of the following, if we could ask that all donations be new or unused. Raffle tickets will be on sale from Monday 9th December on the school playground from the PTA team. Please bring any of the following from your corresponding year group colour. We combine these coloured items to make a hamper gift of the same colour which is then raffled off.

Reception : Red

Year 1 : Green

Year 2 : White

Year 3 : Purple

Year 4 : Gold

- New toys, games, puzzles, teddy bears
- Books
- Confectionery- sweets, chocolates, biscuits (pre-packaged).
- Bottles of wine, squash, water
- Unused toiletry sets
- Or if you are a business and wish to donate a small something.

If you could drop these items to reception by Friday 6th December.

We will be drawing the winning tickets at the Christmas Fair Friday 13th December in the school hall.

Monday 16th December – Christmas lunch. Mrs Cox posted details about this on Class Dojo earlier this week.

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.

Christmas Performances:

Monday 9th December – KS2 Performances in school. Our Tigers and Lions will be performing to parents and at 9:15am and 2:30pm in the school hall.

Tuesday 10th December – Our Bears children will be performing to parents and carers at 9:15am and 2:30pm in the school hall.

Thursday 12th December – KS1 Performances in school. Our Giraffes and Elephants will be performing to parents and carers at 9:15am and 2:30pm in the school hall.

Please note, we are not able to keep the Church car park open for parents during performance times. Mr Dunstan will lock the car park at the usual time of 9am. If your car is still parked in there, it will be locked in and may become blocked in by users of the church later in the morning. Please park elsewhere when attending a morning performance.

Half Price Book Fair

The half price book fair has arrived!

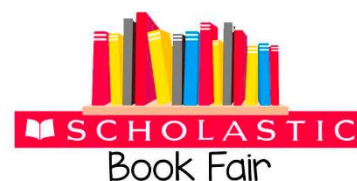
Card payments only.

It will open on the playground (weather permitting) during the following times next week:

Monday - 8:35am - 8:55am and 3:15pm - 3:35pm

Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - 8:35am - 8:55am and 3:15pm - 3:35pm



Collective Worship

In collective worship this week, we have continued to focus on the theme of Advent and Christian values for this time in the Christian calendar. This week we have shared the story of The Lost Son and considered the Christian value of love. As part of our reflection, we have thought about when we have shown love and when love has been shown to us.

This week's Picture News Question was:

Why is discovery so important?

As part of our Picture News assembly, the children consider and reflect on the British Values. This week, they have been considering the British Value of Mutual Respect and Tolerance.



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Learning about the people, who lived in the past and live across the world today, can help us understand and celebrate how different we all are!

In our Celebration Worship we have said “congratulations” to children impressing their teachers by showing our school values. I was delighted to hand out values certificates to Aydin (Bears) Iley (Giraffes), Hayden (Elephants), Jovan (Tigers) and Momina (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Mustafa (Elephants) and Nancy (Lions)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Liza (Bears)

Giraffes, Tigers and Lions received attendance certificates for attendance over 95% this week – well done! Tigers have blown us away this week with attendance over 99% - wow!

St Luke's Stars of the Week!

Each week in our celebration assembly, the teachers will be choosing a pupil to recognise for their excellent work and attitude to learning. Please see Class Dojo for pictures of our 'St Luke's Stars of the Week'. We are very proud of everyone for their hard work and achievements.



Bears: Ayaat for always being someone who gives one hundred percent in all areas of her learning. She also offers to support any friend who need any help.

Giraffes: Ahad for amazing independent writing and Hadiya for working hard in English and maths.

Elephants: Emely for showing enthusiasm and determination in all areas of her learning. I'm particularly impressed with the outcome of her hot task for addition and her progression in Maths.

Tigers: Blake for his incredible retell of Gregory Cool, using adverbials to show the passage of time and where things are happening.

Lions: Savannah for excellent progress in English and always producing really interesting pieces.

Please continue to send in certificates and awards from outside of school achievements so we can share them with the whole school community during our celebration assembly.



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrc0.de/minfec>.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK
97
DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College