



St Luke's C E First School

22nd
November
2024

Dates for your Diary

November

Thursday 28th –
Half Price
Scholastic Book
Fair begins

Thursday 28th –
Lions class to visit
Redditch Library

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

Monday 16th –
Christmas Lunch



This week...

We had the unexpected arrival of snow...and what a great time each class had outside enjoying it!

In this week's newsletter, I had been planning to share information about what we will do in the event of adverse weather and the potential need to close the school. And then, this week, we have had some snowfall, which led people to wonder whether we would be open on Tuesday.

In the event of any further extreme weather conditions or any other reason when we may be in a position where we have to close the school at short notice, we will always post this information on the whole school story on **Class Dojo**. Dojo is a platform that all our parents and staff have access to and is the quickest way to get urgent information, such as a school closure, out to our community. The school closure will also be posted to the Worcestershire County Council website:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-closures>

We will always aim to make the decision to close the school as early as possible, in order to allow families time to make any necessary arrangements. However, please also bear in mind that making a decision such as this is never easy and there are lots of factors to consider. Ultimately, our aim will be to stay open and be able to continue the children's education, and we won't make the decision to close the school lightly. However, that said, of course, the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community is a large consideration in making the decision to close.

Attendance:

Our attendance to date is **95.56%**.

*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
94.74%	95.0%	90.38%	97.86%	91.03%	93.85%

Attendance

Can we again remind parents that school starts at 8:50am and it is expected that the children are in school by this time. We are currently seeing increasing numbers of children arriving after 8:50am when the gates and classroom doors are closed. Arriving late to class can be unsettling for the child and interrupts the learning of others. If traffic is a concern in the morning, please ensure you leave a few minutes earlier in order to be at school on time. We monitor lateness and staff will follow up with parents if your child is late 3 times in a half term.

Think of the Month

Some of our responses to this month's think:

Can you feel guilty for something you haven't done?

No, because you didn't do it. *Anonymous*

Sometimes. I can feel guilty if someone else does something wrong but I feel like it might be my fault. *Grace E-W*

Yes, you can. For example, I once felt guilty when someone was upset because people upset her, which made me feel guilty. *Nancy*

Yes, because people might be blaming it on you but you didn't do it. *Anonymous*



Governor Update

A warm welcome to everyone, especially those new to the school this year that may not know me. I'm Rich Bone and I'm the Chair of Governors here at St Luke's. I am also a parent governor and I have a daughter in Lions class. You're more likely to see me dressed as a shark or a crocodile than wearing a suit.



I am joined on the governing board by various representatives; parents, staff, diocese, and co-opted governors. We have recently welcomed a new parent governor, Suzi Watts, to the board and she is settling in well. I will tell you from personal experience that it can feel a little overwhelming at first but it gets easier. We have also had to say farewell to one of our longest serving governors, Maureen Brown, but she'll still be involved with the school via the Bridge church. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mo for all the time and effort she's put in over the years and I'd like to apologise for the number of times I called her Margaret.

Our role as governors is to set the strategic direction of the school and to hold the leaders to account. What this means in practice is challenging decisions and making sure that the information we are being given is correct. This doesn't mean we just argue with decisions for the sake of it, it means that we ask why a decision was made and what led to it. We will look for evidence and other data sources to corroborate and validate what we are being told. Part of this involves visiting the school and meeting with teachers and pupils to monitor the progress and impact of the school development plan. We do not make any judgements about the teachers or the pupils, we are there to analyse data and collect evidence to report back to the governing board.

I need to move on to the more serious subject of parking. There have been complaints from members of the public and a number of near-misses, some of which I've witnessed, and on one occasion I even had to pull children out of the way of a car that had mounted the curb. We all need to do everything we can to keep everyone safe. There is no justification for parking across a dropped curb, ever. They are there to allow pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc, to safely cross the road. We as governors are currently approaching the council about allowing parking on the hill of Plymouth Road as that is a straight road with much better visibility than the blind corner outside the school. We will keep parents and carers updated on our progress with this, but in the meantime, urge everyone to drive and park considerately and carefully.

Rich Bone, Chair of Governors

The Bridge Church Christmas Street Market

Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for information about this Christmas event which is taking place tomorrow.

Road Safety Week

This week, each class has focused on road safety as an additional element of their PSHE work. During this work in lessons, several classes have raised their concerns over the driving and parking around our school. You will be aware that I often have complaints raised to me by other parents, and people who live in the local area, and as a school we are often reminding and urging parents to take care. I would like to share some of the feedback we have had from our children about the parking and driving around our school grounds and how it makes them feel to see cars driving fast or not parked safely. I sincerely hope that our parents and carers will take note of what our children have raised and make every effort to address their concerns moving forward:



- *People are always parking dangerously on the path and we have to walk around them.*
- *I'm worried because there are too many cars.*
- *I'm worried I might get squashed and run over.*
- *I'm worried the cars might bump into each other.*
- *I get frightened when cars stop.*
- *I get scared because my dad sometimes parks in the yellow lines.*
- *There are too many cars and they drive too fast.*
- *I get worried when cars go backwards.*
- *I have to hold hands with mommy.*
- *There is a lot of traffic and the cars go too fast so it scares me*

The following statements have come from our oldest children in school:

- *Parents around school do not have awareness of where is safe to park.*
- *Parents are not aware of how their unsafe parking can impact others and cause other people to park inappropriately.*
- *When people park inappropriately they do not know the dangers they are putting us into, like making us walk on the road or cross roads that we can't see because they are blocking the footpaths with their cars.*
- *People choose to park on double yellow lines even though they know the law says that they shouldn't park there'*

SAVE THE DATES - Christmas is coming...



Santa Dash

Santa Dash is coming...

It's just 3 weeks until thousands of mini Santas will be joining in the fun, running around playgrounds and school halls across the



Country for the School Games National Santa Dash! 🎅 As in previous years, it really is all about having a bit of fun while being active. On Friday 6th December, we will be holding our annual 'Santa Dash'. Each class will complete an activity circuit with their class in the hall – please feel free to wear your Santa hat or other festive headwear for this event! Later in the afternoon, we will report to School Games how many of us completed this challenge and our numbers will be added to all the other schools in the county who are also taking part!

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.

Friday 13th December – PTA Santa Breakfast, Christmas Grotto and Christmas Fair after school.

Monday 16th December – **Christmas Lunch** - As soon as we have further information from Cupcakes Catering, we will share this with you.

Tuesday 17th December - All the children at St Luke's have been invited over to the Bridge church in December for a Christmas Experience. This will involve an interactive walk around the church to hear and act out the Christmas story.

Work with Me – Bears Class

'Work with me Wednesday'

Mrs Larsen and Mrs Broughton would like to invite all Bears parents/carers to a 'Work With Me' session in school on **Wednesday**

27th November between 2:30pm and 3:15pm.

This session will take place in the classroom and include a 20 minute parent workshop all about how we deliver and teach phonics in school, and ways you can support your children at home. You will then have the opportunity to work with your child for 20 minutes on phonics and reading activities in the classroom.

Unfortunately, due to space, younger siblings will not be permitted to attend.



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 over the half term break, please keep good clothing to donate to us on this date. Thank you.



Collective Worship

In collective worship this week, we have continued to focus on Advent. We have talking about waiting and counting down to Christmas, and considered ways people do this. We have thought about the Christian value of peace and shared details of Jesus being the Prince of Peace.

In Tuesday's Collective Worship we discussed our Well-Being focus for this half term which is 'To Move'. We discussed how moving our bodies is not only good for our physical health but also our mental health as exercising releases the endorphin serotonin which is a 'feel good' hormone.

The Well-Being Champions shared with the school that they would like every class to do a physical brain break activity twice a day every day to release this 'feel good' hormone. They demonstrated some 'chair exercises' that children could do in their classroom.

We all reflected on ways in which we could increase our physical activity in school and at home. To close we said a prayer to thank God for our ability to move our bodies and exercise.

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 Liza (Bears) Eve (Giraffes), Mustafa (Elephants), Grace E-W (Tigers) and Toby (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Zachariah (Bears) and Shaki (Elephants)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Muhammad (Elephants)

Giraffes and Tigers received attendance certificates for attendance over 95% this week – well done!

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: Leo for trying incredibly hard in all areas of his learning. He is always willing to come and do any focused learning work with an adult.

Giraffes: Phoenix for super improvements in letter formation and great efforts in writing.

Elephants: Haniya and Muhammad for brilliant work in maths adding two 2digit numbers when solving word problems.

Tigers: Ramon for excellent effort adding 2- and 3-digit numbers in Maths.

Lions: Aarav for demonstrating excellent History knowledge and drawing on information he learnt from the history visitor.

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.

TOUCHSTONES LANTERN WALK

A lovely time to remember those we love,
who have died. Open to Everyone

MORTON STANLEY PARK - REDDITCH

Saturday 14th December 2024

Walk starts at 5:45pm

with lantern collection available, and cafe open from 5:15pm

**A special family occasion open to everyone,
to remember those we love and who we miss**

**A gentle 30 minute walk with lanterns, and a
short time of memory and reflection in the
lit grotto - followed by a visit from Father
Christmas and his sleigh at 6:30pm
Suitable for all ages and buggies**

**Lanterns available to buy at £5.00 each,
or just bring your own**

**Hot drinks and snacks available to buy from
the wonderful Morton Stanley Cafe**

Parking in main car park - off Windmill Drive

It is really helpful to know how many people are
coming, and also if you need to purchase lanterns - so
please; text or ring Rob on 07491 968 695, or
email rob@touchstones-support.org.uk

One the day, for any poor weather updates, keep
checking out Touchstones Support on Facebook

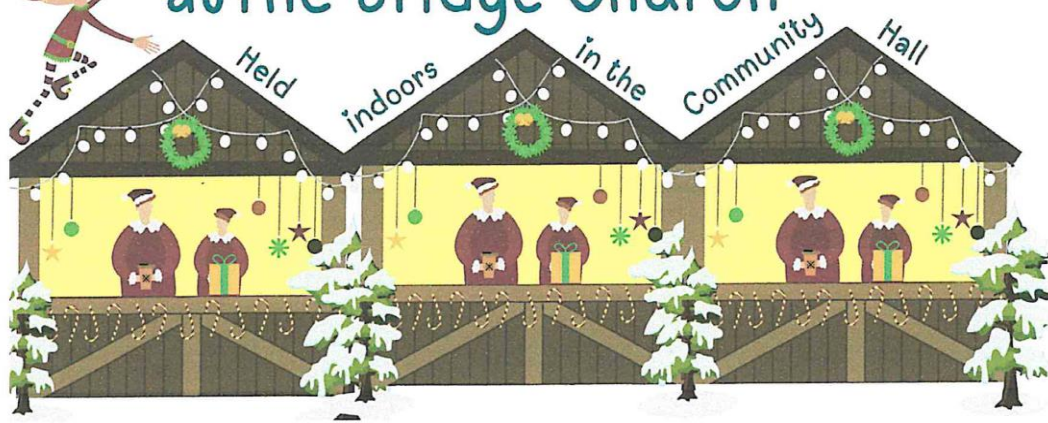
**Special thanks to the wonderful Redditch Round Table,
Redditch Borough Council and the Morton Stanley Cafe**





Christmas Street Market at The Bridge Church

Saturday
23rd November
11am - 2pm



Games
Christmas Gifts
Street Food
Mulled Wine
Hot Chocolate
Tombola
Raffle
Cake Stall
Secret Santa
... and more!



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY

Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.

2 USE A PREPAID CARD

Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!

3 PRACTISE BORROWING

Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or 'buy now, pay later' schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.

4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION

Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "scary adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.

5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND

Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever shop design (like placing sweets at the checkout) and offers such as '2 for 1' deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.

6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'

Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children pester you for treats while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.

7 ENCOURAGE SAVING

Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.

8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST

Motivate children by telling them about interest; you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that 1p doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest; parents and carers could also add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.

9 PAYING FOR CHORES

This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer: it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spenders. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.

10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS

Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected message or call and never give out their personal information.

Meet Our Expert

GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate campaigner for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.

goHenry

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/spending-and-saving>

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