



# St Luke's C E First School

15<sup>th</sup>  
November  
2024

## Dates for your Diary

### November

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> –  
Road Safety Week

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – PTA  
Movie Night

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> –  
Half Price  
Scholastic Book  
Fair begins

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> –  
Lions class to visit  
Redditch Library

### December

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> –  
Choir to visit  
Plymouth Court

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – ECO  
Team Rags to  
Riches collection

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – KS2  
Performances

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> –  
Reception  
Performances

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> –  
Bears trip to the  
theatre

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> -  
KS1 Performances



### **This week...**

We have enjoyed showing prospective parents for our September 2025 intake around school this week. It was lovely to share with our visitors all the things which make our school special! Please remember, if you have a younger sibling due to start school in September 2025, make sure you have completed your online application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

This week, we have seen more hard work in classrooms and more learning of songs for Christmas productions! Tigers and Lions have visited the local war memorial and Tigers have had an exciting visit to Trinity High school to complete invasion game activities. We have rounded another busy week off by raising money for BBC Children in Need. The children (and staff) have all looked fabulous today in their yellow, spots and Pudsey clothes and we thank you for your donations to this important charity.

**Don't forget, our PTA are holding a movie night straight after school on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. You can buy a ticket from Mrs Cox.**

Thank you to those who have already returned your parental questionnaire. Please support us by filling this in and returning it to school as soon as possible – thank you.

### **Attendance:**

Our attendance to date is **95.33%**.

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
95.44%	95.0%	96.15%	91.72%	95.52%	94.74%

As many of our parents and carers may already know, very recently, we have lost a member of our school community as Mr Mukhtar, father of Zaina and Zayn, very suddenly and tragically passed away. Our love, and best wishes are with the Mukhtar family and I know everyone in our school community will join me in keeping them in their thoughts and prayers at this extremely difficult time.

### **Tigers and Lions walk to the memorial.**

Following our work last week on remembrance and our two minute silence on Monday, our Tigers and Lions walked to the local war memorial to pay their respects.



“I enjoyed seeing what people had left to show their respects.” Hannah

“The benches were great. They had pictures carved into them to help people remember.” Toby

“We saw the big monument with the torch that is always lit.” Grace D

“I liked seeing the benches because they had pictures of soldiers and poppies.” Eleanor

### **Tigers visit to Bishops Wood**

Our Tigers had a great time at Bishops Wood last Friday and were a credit to our school throughout the day - well done Tigers!



JV – “I liked grinding the seeds into flour.”

Afiyah – “I enjoyed lighting the fire using sparks.”

Habib – “I liked the hunting skills because I hit the animals with my spear every time.”

Ursula – “I enjoyed building the shelter with my team because it stayed standing in the strong storm.”

Shannon – “I liked building the shelter because it was fun to use the ropes to make the shelter more secure.”

## Think of the Month

We have introduced a 'think of the month' in school. Thunks are simple looking questions about every day things that make you think! When answering the think, consider these questions...

- \*What do you think?
- \*Why do you think it?
- \*Can you give an example?

This month's think: *Can you feel guilty for something you haven't done?*



## Tigers Invasion Games

Tigers have had another outing this week when they visited Trinity High School for an invasion games event!



Jacob – "I liked hockey because when Kevin, Habib and I scored a goal we won the game!"

Aleks – "I liked football because I got to score a goal"

Hayden "I enjoyed handball because I was really good at dribbling!"

Oswin – "I enjoyed goalkeeping in handball and defending our net."

## Lions History Visitor



Last week, our Lions children had a very exciting visit from

Humph Histories who helped bring their learning about Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to life!

"It is amazing how many props Steve brought and how he pretended to be a Saxon." Nancy

"My favourite part was the battle that we had with the shields." Savannah

"I really enjoyed throwing the spears at Steve." Nelson

## Anti-Bullying Week

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2024 is **'Show respect!'**

Staff and pupils at St Luke's have shown support for this year's anti bullying theme by wearing odd socks to show they respect everyone's differences. Each class have then focused on the following:

- What does respect look like?
- How can we show respect?
- How can we disagree respectfully?
- What is bullying?



## Children in Need

The children have all looked amazing today in their Children in Need themed clothing. Thank you for your generous donations to this worthy charity – we have raised £124.05 for the charity – thank you.

Please see Class Dojo for lots of photos of the children today!



## SAVE THE DATES - Christmas is coming...

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> December** – Our Bears children will be performing to parents and carers at 9:15am and 2:30pm in the school hall.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> December** – PTA Santa Breakfast, Christmas Grotto and Christmas Fair after school.

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

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Parking

Again, I must urge parents to be cautious and considerate when driving and parking around our school site. We are all aware that parking spaces are limited, as they are at many schools, and I know that this can cause frustration in the morning when everyone is rushing to be on time and get on with their day. However, I am receiving reports of cars being blocked in on the carpark and cars parking directly outside the school where there are yellow zig zags and clear signage that says 'SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR'.

Cars **should not** park in this area directly outside of school – by doing this, you are creating a dangerous situation for our young pupils and their parents/carers attempting to walk into school. Please work with us to ensure you are not creating unsafe situations for members of our community.



## 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 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024** so if you are planning to have a clear out over the next few weeks, please keep good clothing to donate to us on this date. Thank you.

### **Collective Worship**

In collective worship this week, we have shared the story of Jacob and Easu and we have thought about the important Christian values surrounding Advent.

Mrs Broughton has led a worship based on anti-bullying week. The children listened to the Bible story David and Goliath and thought about why Goliath behaved the way he did and whether they agreed that David was right to stand up to Goliath. They reflected on what the story teaches us in terms of respecting others and how showing respect often leads to respect being shown back.

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 Nevaeh (Bears) Emilia (Giraffes), Hunter (Elephants), Oswin (Tigers) and Baqir (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Mustafa (Elephants) and Eliza G (Giraffes)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Denis (Bears)

Bears, Giraffes, Elephants and Lions 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: Wali for always trying his best in all areas of his learning and displaying such a positive attitude towards school life.

Giraffes: Eliza for amazing independent work in RE.

Elephants: Kristos for his brilliant counting on in tens from any given number! He could mentally do this but he also proved it with his working out!

Tigers: Hayden for his amazing effort at our sports event. He applied his hockey skills from school, played well with his team and was paying close attention to what was happening to ensure he was in the best position.

Lions: Debora for fantastic knowledge and explanations about Hindu deities in RE.

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.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

### 1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signalling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

### 2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

### 3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

### 4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful; assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

### 5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

### 6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

### 7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

### 8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

### 9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

### 10 HAVE FUN!

Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

## Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/teaching-cycle-safety>



