



St Luke's C E First School

8th
November
2024

Dates for your Diary

November

Monday 11th –
Remembrance
Day/ KS2 walk to
the local war
memorial/ Start of
Anti-bullying Week

Tuesday 12th -
Wear odd socks to
celebrate
differences

Tuesday 12th –
Open Day

Wednesday 13th –
Tigers Invasion
Games @ Trinity
High School

Friday 15th –
Children in Need

Monday 18th –
Road Safety Week

Friday 22nd – PTA
Movie night –
details to follow!

Thursday 28th –
Half Price
Scholastic Book
Fair begins

Thursday 28th –
Lions class to visit
Redditch Library



This week...

Welcome back to Autumn 2! I hope you all had a very enjoyable half term break and enjoyed time with your loved ones. I don't think we could have packed any more into this first week back! From Remembrance activities, a visit from Animal Tastic for Giraffes, a trip to Bishop's Wood for Tigers, a visit from Pudsey Bear for the whole school and a History workshop for our Lions...what a brilliant week in school! To top all of this off, the children have come back ready and eager to learn, and are making a start learning songs ready for the Christmas performances!

Our Autumn 2 clubs have got off to a great start this week with boxing, cooking, Christmas crafts and choir to name a few!

This is always a very busy half term in school – please keep your eye on Class Dojo for updates and information, and please make sure you read the newsletters and check the diary dates!

Attendance:

Our attendance to date is **95.4%**.

Please remember school starts at 8:50am and ensure your child is here on time – thank you.



Bears, Giraffes, Elephants and Lions received attendance certificates for attendance over 95% this week – well done!

*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
95.09%	96.0%	97.31%	88.28%	98.58%	94.99%

Open Days for September 2025

A final reminder that if you have a child due to start school in September 2025, we are holding open day events on Tuesday 12th November 9.30am – 10.30am and 5pm – 6pm. Please contact Mrs Cox to make an appointment and please spread the word to any families you know who are looking for a Reception school place for September 2025.

If you are applying for a first or middle school place to start in September 2025, please ensure you have completed your online application by 15th January 2025.

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

Remembrance

This week, following our Collective Worship on Monday, all of our classes have been completing remembrance activities and we have started to add all our work to a school display board to show our reflections and respect for all those who have lost their lives in war. Mrs Ishaq is currently working on this...have a look below to see how well it is coming together so far! Our Lions children have been especially interested in learning about the reasons behind wearing poppies and have asked if they can visit the local war memorial. On Monday afternoon, following our 2 minute silence in school, both our Lions and Tigers children will be walking to the memorial to pay their respects.



Giraffes Visitor

To link to their new Science topic about animals, our Giraffes class had an interesting visit from animal-tastic on Wednesday, where they were able to touch and hold a range of animals, as well as learning more about them, including their habitat, foods they eat and how to look after them.



Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 11th – Friday 15th November 2024 is Anti-Bullying week. The theme is **Show Respect**.



This year, 'Odd Sock Day' will be held on Tuesday 12th November so we are asking all children and adults to come to school on this day wearing odd socks. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to encourage pupils to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. It is also an opportunity to help raise awareness of bullying. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school. On Tuesday 12th and during the week, the teachers will be planning a range of activities based on anti-bullying in order to develop and support the children's personal development. If you would like to find out more information, you can visit the anti-bullying alliance website:

https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAxKy5BhBbEiwAYiW--808xPU8rAzcrHvvl-kNSyJuUltnx8jnB6ip25ycO2adImmtPpYmjBoCfywQAvD_BwE

Please also see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information about showing respect.

Pudsey Visit & Children in Need

Following our visit from Pudsey this week, we will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 15th November. We invite the children to come to school wearing yellow/spots and all things Pudsey Bear, whether that be pyjamas, a onesie, t-shirt or hoodie. If you are able to, please bring a £1 donation which we will then send on to Children in Need in order to support this important charity. Thank you for your support with this.



We were so pleased and excited to meet Pudsey himself this year! Thank you for all of your donations for 'pennies for Pudsey'. We have now passed these on to Pudsey and the Children in Need team.



Cupcakes Catering

Our school meal provider, Cupcakes Catering, are looking for someone to work here at St Luke's serving our school dinners. If you are interested in this position, please take a look at the job information below and contact Carl for more details on how to apply.

Job Summary

We are seeking a well presented School Food Server to join our ever growing team at Cupcakes Catering Ltd. In this role, you will be responsible for providing exceptional service to St Luke's School who are very proud to cater for, your role is ensuring smooth running lunchtimes for our lovely little clients.

Working Hours. 11:30am – 13:30pm

Must have own car and be able to collect food boxes from the Cupcakes Catering kitchens in Hanbury (B60 4HS). Generous mileage allowance is paid weekly for using your own vehicle.

Responsibilities

- Set up and serve food items in accordance with our policies & procedures (full training given)
- Job Type: Part-time, Permanent
- Pay: £11.44 per hour
- Expected hours: 10 per week
- Work Location: In person
- Reference ID: St Luke's
- Expected start date: asap

Carl Harte: carl@cupcakescatering.co.uk / 07470 473218 or see their website for more details:
www.cupcakescatering.co.uk

PE Kit

As you will have seen in a recent Class Dojo post, we are asking parents and carers to support us with the following:

In order for us to maintain our high expectations for uniform, we ask that children who are attending either boxing (Monday) or dodgeball (Wednesday) please bring trainers to change into for the club.

If your child is attending one of these clubs and it is their PE day, they will already be in full PE kit so do not need to bring anything separate.

If your child attends either of the above clubs and has their ears pierced, earrings should be removed at home or taped over prior to school.



For all other clubs, there is no need for a change of footwear or clothing.

Parental Questionnaire

We will soon be sending home our annual parent questionnaire. We would be very grateful if you could complete the questionnaire by ticking the boxes to state whether you agree or disagree with the statements. There may be some questions which may not apply to you and your child – e.g. one question relates to SEN pupils. If your child is not on our SEN register, you can tick the 'not applicable' column in this instance.

Last year, we were delighted with the overwhelming positive feedback we received and were extremely grateful for the positive comments we received from our parents and carers. As part of this questionnaire, we do also ask if you have any thoughts and ideas for how we can improve aspects of our provision, and we take these suggestions seriously. Last year, we actioned the following suggestions/queries raised by through the questionnaire:

Swimming lessons – this was raised by a parent and since then we have arranged swimming for both our Tigers and Lions classes this academic year.

Parents to come in and work with their children – this again was raised and since then we have arranged termly 'work with me sessions' which will continue to take place on a termly basis moving forward.

Bears children to attend after school cubs – we have started our youngest children attending clubs earlier this academic year based on this feedback we received.

Please look out for the parental questionnaire coming home next week and fill it – we thank you for your support with this.



Nut Free School

Please continue to remember that due to severe allergies, we are a nut free school! This means no nuts or products which contain nuts are to be brought into school. Thank you for your support with this.

SAVE THE DATES - Christmas is coming...

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.



Collective Worship

This week, we have shared the book *Alive with Poppies*, which is a poem which explains the history and importance of the poppy symbol.

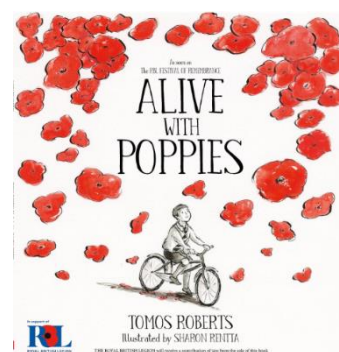
Mrs Elmes has also led a worship focusing on our theme for this half term, which is all about Advent and waiting. The children have thought about and reflected on:

How did you feel when you were **waiting** for a special day, your birthday, a party, Christmas?

How do you feel when you light candles on a birthday cake?

When Christians wait for Christmas ... **the time of waiting is called Advent**

Advent: when Christians wait for Christmas, and taking time to remember all the great things God promised in Jesus.



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.



This week, we have not held our usual celebration worship as two of our classes were unavailable on Friday afternoon due to extra-curricular events. We look forward to celebrating our next set of superstars next Friday afternoon!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

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