



# St Luke's C E First School

18<sup>th</sup>  
October  
2024

## Dates for your Diary

### October

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Flu  
Vaccinations /  
Parents' Evening

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
School  
Photographer/  
Parent's Evening

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Break  
up for half term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>  
November –  
School Re-opens /  
Autumn 2clubs  
start

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> –  
Giraffes Animal-  
Tastic visitor

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> –  
Special Children in  
Need visitor!

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Lions  
History visitor in  
school

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tigers  
visit to Bishops  
Wood

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> –  
Anti-bullying Week:  
Wear odd socks to  
celebrate  
differences



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

Our Autumn 2 clubs letter was sent home this week. If your child has been successful in gaining a place in a club for next half term, Mrs Cox will let you know via a Class Dojo message. Autumn 2 clubs will start week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> November and will run for 6 weeks.

### **Parent/Carer Evenings**

Please don't forget, we are holding our autumn term parent/carers evenings next week on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. If you haven't booked your appointment, please do so as soon as possible. If you are unsure of the time you booked, please contact Mrs Cox and she will be able to give you this information.

A reminder to parents/carers that smoking and vaping are not permitted on school grounds – thank you.

### **Attendance:**

Our attendance to date is **95.7%**.

Please remember that children can still attend school with cold symptoms.



Can I please remind all parents and carers that you need to contact the school office via telephone to report all absences **each day**. We will contact you on each day of absence if we do not hear from you. For safeguarding reasons, we are unable to presume a child is off for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day of absence because they are still unwell – we need to have this confirmed by you. If we are unable to contact you and find out the reason for absence, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

*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
88.42%	96.33%	97.69%	94.14%	95.0%	94.28%

## Open Days for September 2025

If you have a child due to start school in September 2025, we are holding open day events on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

## Tigers Swimming

This week I had the pleasure of joining our Tigers children for their swimming lessons. The progress they have all made was a delight to see and it was so lovely to see all their big smiles while they were developing their skills in the pool. Well done Tigers!

## ECO

We now have our ECO team and they will be meeting with Mrs Griffiths next week to start action planning! In the meantime, today at playtime today the children have had the opportunity to complete a scavenger hunt to find out what they can about the different recycling symbols. Perhaps you could look out for these at home also and start talking about what you can do as a family to be eco-friendly!



## Elephants visit to the Mosque

Yesterday, Our Elephants class had a very enjoyable and informative visit to Redditch Central Mosque. We were made to feel so welcome and the children really enjoyed this experience.

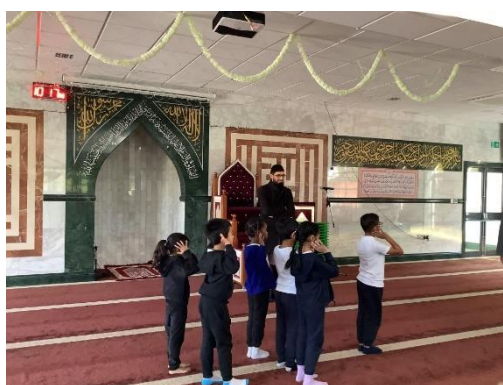
Emely - "We learnt how to pray"

Ella - "We had to take our shoes off"

Ethan - "I learned that the big dome is a representation of the universe"

Aiza - "I loved the Arabic writing from the Qur'an inside the dome"

Jemimah - "I really liked the prayer room."



## School Photographs

Don't forget, the school photographer is in on Wednesday next week to take individual and sibling photos!

## Online Safety

I'm sure we all use YouTube regularly. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for some tips on how to use it safely in order to protect ourselves and the children from upsetting content and potential risks posed by the site.



## St Luke's Day

Today, we have enjoyed our second St Luke's Day Celebration

We have started the day by remembering what we learnt about St Luke on our St Luke's celebration last year and we have re-capped the parables we shared. Each class has then worked on a different parable from the gospel of Saint Luke and this afternoon they have each completed a piece of art work which represents an element of our school vision. We will soon be adding this lovely art work to a display in our school hall. Look out on Class Dojo for some more photos and information.

## Lions Sporthall Athletics

On Wednesday, our Lions class represented St Luke's brilliantly at their athletics event. Everyone came back full of excitement and enjoyment and said they had a great time!



## Thanks

This month's think:

*If you could take medicine that would make you always happy, would you?*

Some of our responses:

"No, because if it makes me happy, it might make others sad." Ursula, Tigers

"No, because if you are never sad, how can you know how happiness feels?" Mrs Adams

"No, because sometimes things are bad and sometimes things are good." Anonymous

"No, because if you take that medicine you can't show any emotions and that's really bad for your mental health." Hannah, Lions

"Yes, I love medicine!" Zorain, Tigers

"No because it's ok to feel good and bad emotions." Miss Payne



## Reading Ambassadors

Our Reading ambassadors would like to introduce you to our parent/carer book swap trolley! Our children here at St Luke's love to read and they would like to make sure our adults have the chance to read and share books too. This trolley is kept in our main entrance foyer and will be wheeled out to the playground each morning. We would love it if parents/carers loaned books for our trolley. All donations are gratefully received!



## Lumi Nova – A new free APP to support children (aged 7-12) with anxieties, fears and worries



Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS have partnered with BFB Labs to offer children and young people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire free access to Lumi Nova from 1st October 2024.

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure.

- Recommended by NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
- Lumi Nova offers a Gold Standard of Care by facilitating graded exposures (the active ingredient of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with psychoeducation
- Parent/guardian supported intervention
- Built in safeguarding & accessibility features

You can access the app here - <https://luminova.app/>

You can watch this short-animated video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmgrU4zXU3M>

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

#### Is it too early to mention Christmas?

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – KS2 Performances in school. Our Tigers and Lions will be performing 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 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.



#### Cupcakes Catering

I was immensely proud of our School Councillors this week who met with myself and Carl from Cupcakes Catering company to talk about all the things the children like about their school meals and the things they would like to change/have more of. Our School Councillors first spoke to their classes to gain their ideas and then they confidently shared these responses with Carl. Some of the things the children have asked for which Carl has said they can implement quite quickly:

- Fish Friday!
- More jelly
- Tuna as an option for sandwiches and jacket potatoes
- A salad bar
- Bigger jacket potatoes
- Watermelon
- More rice options

Some other things which Carl is going to go back to his team to discuss in more details before coming back to us:

- Theme days
- Spaghetti Bolognese as an option

Our current menu runs until February 2025; however, Carl has said they will look to make some updates soon. Once I hear back from him, I will update you.

### Collective Worship

This week, we have continued to focus on our theme of Harvest, and have focussed on 'E is for Endeavour'. We have shared and discussed the parable of vineyard workers and we have thought about how God has no favourites and is generous with his love for everyone.

This week's picture news question was:

*Why do people give gifts?*

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 rule of law.



#### Rule of Law

The ministerial code is a set of rules that exists to ensure ministers act in the best interests of the general public. Rules can guide us on how to uphold values such as honesty and integrity.

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 Rory (Bears), Reggie (Giraffes), Bebe (Elephants), Louie (Tigers) and Jacob (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Eleanor (Tigers) and Emily (Lions)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Florence (Bears)

Giraffes, Elephants and Tigers received attendance certificates for attendance over 95% this week – well done! We also celebrated this week's St Luke's Stars of the Week:

## 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: Yusuf for his brilliant description of Goldilocks. He described her character and how she was feeling.

Giraffes: Khizr for using and applying his phonics when writing independently.

Elephants: Ella for her brilliant writing across all subjects - especially her English, her Science and her RE this week!

Tigers: Isreal and Kevin for their help in Computing, demonstrating their skills by modelling and supporting the other children in Tigers.

Lions: Manahil for excellent sportsmanship during our athletics tournament. She took the time to congratulate all of the children in her team and well as being determined to beat her own score every time.

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.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.



### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!



### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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