



# W St Luke's C E First School

11<sup>th</sup>  
October  
2024

## Dates for your Diary

### October

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> –  
Lions Sporthall  
Athletics

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> –  
Elephants visit to  
the mosque

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – St  
Luke's  
Day/Pumpkin  
Party

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

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

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



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

We have had another busy week in school, with two more successful work with me sessions on Elephants and Tigers classes and 'Hello Yellow' day for mental health. The Giraffes have impressed me with their number knowledge and Tigers have been demonstrating their understanding of fronted adverbials and our Bears have enjoyed their teddy bears' picnic. Next week, Lions are looking forward to their first sporting event of the year when they visit Trinity High School for an athletics session. We are also looking forward to celebrating St Luke's day and enjoying the PTA Pumpkin Party on Friday!

**OPAL Playtimes** – A note I found in the School Council drop box from a pupil in school that I wanted to share: *"Hope you have a great playtime – it's magical!"*

### **Attendance:**

Our attendance to date is **95.97%**.

This week we have experienced a higher level of absences, as we have had children experiencing high temperatures. Please remember that children can still attend school with cold symptoms.



*We understand that there may be occasions where your child is unwell. To report an absence please contact the school office via telephone. Please **do not** send Dojo messages as these may not be picked up.*

Bears	Giraffes	Elephants	Tigers	Lions	Whole School
94.64%	90.67%	97.31%	96.21%	94.07%	94.5%



## 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.

## Parent/Carer Evenings

We are holding our autumn term parent/carer evenings on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October. Mrs Cox sent out links to parents via email on Monday so that you can book your slot. It is important to us that we are able to update all parents and carers on their child's progress, so please ensure you book an appointment. If you haven't received a link, please let Mrs Cox know as soon as possible.

## PTA Pumpkin Party

Don't forget, our PTA are holding a Pumpkin Party Disco after school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please see Mrs Cox in the office if you wish to purchase a ticket.

We hope to see lots of you there!

As we move further into Autumn, with Halloween and Bonfire night celebration ahead, please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for some fire safety information.



## 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

On Wednesday next week, School Council and I will be meeting with Carl from Cupcakes Catering to review our school lunches and put forward some ideas the children have got about their menu choices. If you have any feedback/suggestions you would like me to pass on to Cupcakes, please let me know.

## Work with Me

This week we have enjoyed 'work with me' sessions in Elephants and Tigers classes. If you have been able to join us for any of our events over the past 2 weeks, thank you so much for coming to support our school. The children thoroughly enjoy being able to share their learning experiences with you and there is always such a lovely atmosphere in class when you are all working together!

## Open Days for September 2024

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>

## Kindness Week

Thank you for all of your very generous donations for our sponsored kindness challenge – our total today is **£490.00** and I have been told we are still expecting some more contributions next week!



Thank you so much – this money will be sent to the NSPCC to support all the great work they do supporting and protecting children.

## Clubs

Our Autumn 2 clubs letter will be sent home next week. Please return your form as soon as possible if you wish to sign up. Autumn 2 clubs will start from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November until the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## World Mental Health Day – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

This week we have shown our support for World Mental Health Day by wearing something yellow. Everyone looked wonderful in their yellow accessories and each class has spent time this week on mental health activities. Thank you for your support with this.



## Collective Worship

This week, we have continued to focus on our theme of Harvest, and have focussed on the 'E is for Endeavour'.

This week's picture news question was:  
*How important are human interactions?*

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 individual liberty.



### Individual Liberty

At the moment, all employees have the right to request flexible working. Being aware of our rights and freedoms in the workplace can provide us with balance, fulfilment and enjoyment.

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 Zachariah and Aizah (Bears), Amelia (Giraffes), Eesah (Elephants), Grace D (Tigers) and Lashley (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Reggie (Giraffes) and Zayn (Lions)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Mia (Lions)

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: Zaiba for her excellent re-tell of a familiar story.

Giraffes: Soha for showing great understanding in maths.

Elephants: Eliza for pushing and challenging herself with her learning. She takes advice on board with how to improve her work and applies this independently.

Tigers: Jacob for effectively finding 10 more or less and challenging himself further with his reasoning.

Lions: Mia for excellent explanations in RE of the Holy Trinity and Christians beliefs about God.

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 CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

## 1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.



## 2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.



## 3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

## 4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.



## 5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.



## 6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.



## 7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.



## 8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.



## 9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.



## 10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.



## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



The National College

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