



St Luke's C E First School

4th October
2024

Dates for your Diary

October

Tuesday 8th –
Worth with me
Tigers @ 2.15pm

Wednesday 9th –
Work with Me
Elephants @
2.15pm

Thursday 10th –
Hello Yellow Day
for Mental Health

Friday 18th – St
Luke's Day

Friday 18th – PTA
Pumpkin Party

Tuesday 22nd – Flu
Vaccinations /
Parents' Evening

Wednesday 23rd –
School
Photographer/
Parent's Evening

Friday 25th – Break
up for half term

Monday 4th
November –
School Re-opens

Thursday 7th –
Special Children in
Need visitor!



This week...

We have enjoyed two very enjoyable 'work with me sessions', held a very successful Harvest Festival at the Bridge Church, where our youngest children blew us away with their very first school performance, and we have been spreading kindness and joy throughout the school with all the kindness challenges the children have been completing. What a great week!

Parent/Carer Evenings

We are holding our autumn term parent/carers 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.

Asda Cashpot

Our Asda cashpot total is currently £125.48. Thank you...and please keep shopping in ASDA to help us raise even more in the coming weeks.

Attendance:

Our attendance to date is **96.3%**.

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
99.29%	96.33%	94.62%	97.89%	91.11%	95.91%



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.

Eco Council

The Eco Council 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 please keep good clothing to donate to us on this date.

The recycling scheme have sent us the following information:

We are looking for clean and reusable items that can be donated:

Good quality clothes and accessories.

Adults, children's and babies clothing such as jackets, jumpers, hoodies, trousers, skirts, scarves, gloves, belts, handbags, paired shoes and other footwear etc.

They cannot reuse the following items:

Worn out shoes or clothes, clothes that are wet or have holes in.

Curtains, pillows or duvets, bric-a-brac or books. Personalised items.

Work uniform, School uniform or school sports kit

If you are unsure what to put in the bags, then

STOP AND THINK - WOULD SOMEONE ELSE BUY & WEAR IT?

If it isn't something you'd wear out and about yourself or pass to a friend, then no-one else will want to buy and wear it so unfortunately, it's not reusable and can't go in the bag.

Donated clothes and accessories are sent to Europe, Africa and even further away to be sold at market stalls as affordable items for those in real need of clothing.

Collection bags will be distributed out to the children a week or two before our collection date. This is a very good to recycle unwanted clothes and shoes and also raise funds for two important projects within school, which all our children will benefit from.

Between now and early December, please keep any items that you think you might have which could be donated for us to recycle. The ECO committee will be in touch again soon with some further information.

Thank you for your support.

PTA Pumpkin Party

Our PTA are holding a Pumpkin Party Disco after school on Friday 18th October. Please see Mrs Cox in the office if you wish to purchase a ticket.

We hope to see lots of you there!



Think of the Month

We have recently 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:

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

New School Teams

This week we have launched our new school teams and the children have started to gain team points for their new team. We have also selected team captains from our Lions class:

Earth: Nadine & Jacob

Water – Esme & Aarav

Fire – Aarsal & Haniya

Air – Macy & Ammishaddai

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Ishaq for creating our wonderful new team point display board. The children (and staff!) have been completely wowed by this today and I'm sure you will all agree it looks amazing in our school hall! Thank you Mrs Ishaq!!

Air are currently our leading team, with a grand total of 90 points achieved in this first week – well done!



We will soon be introducing a new school reward where teachers and teaching assistants will be looking out for children consistently demonstrating our school rules of Ready, Respectful, Safe and choosing them to be our class VIPs. More details on this will be shared soon!

Work with Me

This week we have enjoyed 'work with me' sessions in Lions and Giraffes classes. It was so good to see lots of parents and carers getting stuck into the tasks alongside your children and we hoped you enjoyed it! We have 2 more work with me sessions next week –

Tuesday 8th – Tigers Class

Wednesday 9th – Elephants Class

Please remember, as with last year, we do ask that younger siblings do not attend these work with me sessions. This is so the focus can be on your child in school and we thank you for your support with this.

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 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>

Kindness Week

This week, all classes have been spreading kindness. I've seen decorated conkers which have been sent to friends, lovely pictures and drawings being shared amongst children and I have been touched with the messages of kindness children have passed to me on the playground. Today's break time this morning caused excitement as children were finding the Tigers' kindness rocks and sharing the lovely messages with each other. Mrs Broughton will share some more information in next week's newsletter about the activities which have been completed and give an update on our sponsorship.



World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2024

Next week, don't forget we would like all staff and pupils at St Luke's to show support for World Mental Health Day on Thursday 10th October by wearing something yellow. This could be a hair band, socks, badge, scarf or any other accessory you can think of. Children must wear their school uniform/PE kit as usual but show support and brighten the day with a yellow accessory. We are not asking for any donations for the charity, but would like to mark world mental health day by wearing something yellow and the children will be completing some mental health activities in class.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to all our families for your kind and generous donations for Harvest. We hoped you enjoyed the service at the Bridge. I love seeing our children perform to an audience, and they did not disappoint! Please have a look at the photos posted on Class Dojo to see each class performing.

Collective Worship

This week, we have enjoyed a visit from Paul from Southcrest Church and a lively singing worship where we all performed our Harvest songs to each other. We thoroughly enjoyed performing again at The Bridge Church on

Thursday for Harvest Festival and we have also spent some time in collective worship reviewing our school vision and school rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe.**

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 Nicholas, Alexia, Taro & Aliya (Bears) Ahad (Giraffes), Kiswa (Elephants), Denis (Tigers) and Tilda (Lions).

Lunchtime award winners: Ella (Elephants) and Momina (Lions)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Haniya (Lions)

Bears, Giraffes and Tigers received attendance certificates for attendance over 95% again 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: Dawood for his excellent effort and good listening during Phonics sessions. He has really tried incredibly hard to become more independent – well done!

Giraffes: Sarah-Aliza for working really hard in maths and completing great work!

Elephants: Amara for consistently meeting her learning objectives due to being ready for learning and showing good listening skills.

Tigers: Abhinav for showing amazing focus and great listening during Maths to ensure he is able to challenge himself further when estimating on a number line.

Lions: Emily for independently writing clear paragraphs based on the change in topic or time, ensuring she had checked punctuation and spelling.

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 USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



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