



St Luke's C E First School

27th
September
2024

Dates for your Diary

October

Tuesday 1st –
Work with Me
Lions @ 2.15pm

Wednesday 2nd –
Work with Me
Giraffes @ 2.15pm

Thursday 3rd –
Harvest Festival @
The Bridge Church
– 9.15am

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

Tuesday 22nd – Flu
Vaccinations /
Parents' Evening

Wednesday 23rd –
School
Photographer/
Parent's Evening

Friday 25th – Break
up for half term



This week

I continue to be blown away by OPAL playtimes and watching our children of all age groups play and interact with each other so brilliantly. I am loving popping into classrooms to see the learning that is taking place, and I thoroughly enjoy our Tigers children proudly telling me about their achievements in their swimming lessons. Our Bears children have settled so well into school life over the past 3 weeks – they are rising to the challenges which are presented to them and watching them share the playground and enjoy engaging play with our older year groups is a joy to see.

Please remember next week is Kindness Week – see below for further details.

School Uniform: A reminder that we politely ask parents and carers to check that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. We currently have unnamed uniform and we are unable to return it their owners! Thank you for your support with this.

Parent/Carer Evenings

We are holding our autumn term parent/carers evenings on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October. Mrs Cox will be sending out links to parents so that you can book your slot from Monday 30th September. 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.

Attendance:

Our attendance to date is **96.03%**.

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
95.79%	89.0%	96.15%	96.79%	93.33%	94.12%



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.

Languages Day

Today we have celebrated 'Languages Day' here at St Luke's!

Our school vision identifies that here at St Luke's we are one big family and we recognise that we are all God's children, even though we may speak different languages, experience different cultures and celebrate different faiths. We are a diverse school and proud of this! Our vision also references developing our relationships with each other – and what better way to do this than to find out more about each other's lives.

As we have many children in our school who speak languages other than English, we started the day celebrating the languages and cultures of the children and staff in our school.

Please see your child's Class Dojo page for photos and more information about what they have been learning as part of our languages day celebration.

Harvest Festival

A reminder that our Harvest Festival service is being held on Thursday 3rd October at the Bridge church at 9:15am. All classes will be attending and we hope to see as many parents and carers there are possible – all classes will be performing a Harvest song.

Please can we kindly ask that the children start to bring in Harvest donations (non-perishable foods such as tins, packets with a long shelf life) from Monday 30th September. We will take a selection to the church for the service and the remainder will be shared with the church and the local foodbank after the service. We thank you in advance 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>

Thanks

Some of our responses so far to the question:

Is it possible to be happy and sad at the same time?

"Yes, you can because I felt sad this morning but I was happy to come to school." Miss Gibbons

"Yes, because you can be sad because you can't do something but happy to see your friends." Grace E

"Yes. I am happy and excited for my daughter who has gone to Uni but sad she is not at home anymore." Mrs Adams.

"Well, you can cry happy tears, but I'm not quite sure." Anonymous.



School Council

Introducing our new School Councillors for this academic year. These children put themselves forward to be considered as a School Councillor and then each class carried out a democratic vote to choose who they wanted to represent them. I look forward to working with this team of pupils throughout the academic year in order to make our school an even better place to learn! This week we have worked together to allocate the names of the new school teams. We will be launching our new teams and sharing the team point updates from next Friday.



ECO Committee

This week Mrs Griffiths and I have visited each class to talk to them about our plans to set up an ECO committee at St Luke's. We have talked about all the different things we can do here at school to help the environment and make a difference, including ways in which we can reduce, re-use and re-cycle. We will soon be looking for volunteers to join our ECO team – watch this space for more information!



Kindness Week

A reminder that from Monday 30th September - Friday 4th October we are taking part in the Kindness Challenge.

Our well-being focus this half term is to **give**. The well-being champions thought raising and giving money to a charity, through showing extra acts of kindness, was a great way to do this.



We would really appreciate your support with sponsoring your child to complete the Kindness Week.

All money and forms need to be returned to school by Friday 11th October so the champions can count how much we have raised and send the money to the NSPCC. Thank you for your support.

Lions Adopt a Chef

This week our Lions children have enjoyed a session with chef Idris Caldora who has been in school teaching them about healthy foods. The children have considered the 5 food groups, the 5 sense and 5 tastes. This was a thoroughly enjoyable session for the children who all looked amazing in their chefs hats and aprons! We will be welcoming Idris back to school in February when the children will be learning about safe knife skills and will be

making a salad. I have heard from the Lions staff team that Idris was highly complimentary about our children's excellent listening skills and positive attitudes – well done Lions!



Parking

Again, we are in the position where parents are raising parking concerns with me. This week, with the heavy rain, I appreciate that more families may have chosen to come to school by car rather than walk like they usually would. This, of course, means that there is a higher level of traffic around the school and using the church carpark. Today I have been informed that a vehicle (silver Peugeot) had parked in the middle of the car park and not in a designated space, which then meant that other parents were unable to get in and out of the car park. Can I please remind all parents and carers again to park respectfully and carefully around school. If there are no car park spaces available, please ensure you park elsewhere to avoid situations like this from arising again. As we have repeatedly stated, the safety of our children is of the highest importance and unsafe and inconsiderate parking can lead to dangerous situations arising.

World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2024

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.



Collective Worship

This week, we have continued to reflect on our theme of *Harvest*. We have re-capped our understanding of Harvest and have reflected on the story of Jesus calling his Disciples. Reverend Ruth joined us on Thursday and shared the parable of the Sower with the children.

This week's picture news question was:
Will classrooms of the future be teacherless?

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.

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 Harley (Bears) Hadiya (Giraffes), Hafsa (Elephants), Zorain (Tigers) and Esme (Lions).



Rule of Law

The Department for Education (DfE) is the department of the UK government responsible for education. They set policies, guidance and rules about how and what we learn.

Lunchtime award winners: Lara (Lions) and Kevin (Tigers)

OPAL Golden Welly Winner: Nelson (Lions)

Bears, 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: Xander for his effort in all areas of his learning. He has worked incredibly hard in Phonics this week, especially during word time.

Giraffes: Eve for thoughtful work in PSHE

Elephants: Zayan for using mathematical vocabulary accurately to explain his reasoning.

Tigers: Dylan for writing super descriptive sentences and selecting better words from a thesaurus.

Lions: Nancy for amazing Maths - She blew me away with her explanations about estimating on a number line!

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

ROBLOX

AGE RATING
PEGI
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Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money – usually a one-off payment. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>