



St Lukian Newsletter

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's Issue 19 Oct 2018

Dining Room & Lunchtime

We're really excited with how the dining room build is progressing and over the half term we should be at the knock through and the internal decoration stage. Completion is therefore now due 19th of November. Obviously, our new space is really exciting so to celebrate we will be running a competition with the children to give their new dining room a brand new name. The children need to submit their idea by Tuesday 6th November on a named A4 piece of paper and we'll announce the winner after half term - the prize being the new name being made up into a large sign to display in the dining room.

I shared at the beginning of term that we are working with School Health UK to achieve their Better Lunchtime quality mark which is a comprehensive audit and evaluation of all areas of the lunchtime experience and Paul Evans, their consultant, visited us in September. We now have his detailed report and an ambitious action plan on how to make changes to achieve our aims. The initial audit highly praised the quality of food we serve and efficiency with which we are able to cater for over 450 pupils on such a complex and large school site (the most complex the auditor had worked in!). However, he agreed with our assessment that the current efficient systems could be further enhanced to improve the children's experiences and so offered a number of exciting suggestions such as: changes to how we set out and lay the tables; how we organise each sitting to reduce queuing times and how we might change the seating arrangements to help the children to really enjoy their time together at their table as well as some further ideas for promoting activity outside.

The quality mark really does cover the whole lunchtime experience both inside and out whilst ensuring that the school complies with the School Food Standards and promotes health and wellbeing at all times. Some of these changes will take time to implement and further time to refine, but we're confident that by the end of this year we'll be proud of all we've achieved and the children will really see the benefits, which is of course, the most important outcome of all!



Harvest and All Saints Church

Thank you to all who sent in items for our Harvest which have been donated to the local Food Bank to support families in our local area. Our Y3 children also joined All Saints Church as part of their R.E topic on 10th October to learn about a traditional church harvest. Staff and pupils had a really informative and entertaining morning with Rev Geoff and once again our parents were so generous, sending in additional items which will be donated to the charity Gingerbread by the church as part of their overall harvest donations. We are so grateful to Rev Geoff and his team for the wonderful community events

Remembrance - Centenary of the end of WW1 1918 - 2018

There are many commemorative events taking place across the country for this event and most of you I am sure will have seen pictures of the Weeping Window art installation at Middleport pottery earlier in the term and may even have been lucky enough to see it in person too. The pupils at school have also contributed to a collaborative art installation organised by Lichfield cathedral where over 20,000 paper doves decorated by children across the diocese will be hung from the ceiling promoting and celebrating peace. Our children have very much enjoyed taking part in this simple project and it will be open for the public to view. I have also accepted an invitation to attend the Civic Remembrance Sunday Service with two pupils at the Kingsway Cenotaph and the service at Stoke Minster to mark this centenary occasion, and as such Mr Killeen will be representing the school with pupils at the Hanley Cenotaph so you can be sure Hanley St Luke's will be well represented across the city on that day. In addition, our Y5 children will be attending a special service of Remembrance on Wednesday 7th November at All Saints church and, as a whole school, we will be ensuring the children have time to reflect and consider this centenary occasion by holding a special curriculum day on Thursday 8th November. We will give more details of these events nearer the time. Meanwhile, poppies and poppy themed items continue to be on sale each day in school on behalf of the Royal British Legion with items available such as pencil sharpeners and pencils etc from 50p as well as the traditional paper poppy.



Shoe Box Appeal

This year we are working with T4U and their Shoebox Love Gift appeal. Their founder Dave Cooke has been coordinating sending shoeboxes full of gifts to children for years and T4U's particular focus is in Eastern Europe but they also support charity work in Africa too. If you would like to fill a shoebox for a child in need to open at Christmas time, please contact the office for a box (if you don't have an old one to hand) and a leaflet explaining what can and cannot be packed in it. I hope we can show our love across the world in this very practical and simple way by having lots of boxes ready for collection. All boxes would need to be in school by the 6th November.

Parent Consultations

If you have not already made an appointment to see your child's class teacher, please do so as soon as possible as it is a really important part of supporting your child in their education. We aim to be as flexible as possible with appointments from 1:00- 6:30 p.m. but with over 450 children to make appointments for, we do need to keep to the set days and slots unless there are exceptional circumstances where we will do our very best to help out.



PTFA

We had a very successful turn out across the two sessions we ran for our first meetings of the year and will be holding our next meeting on 12th November at 6:30 p.m. where we will be appointing our Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and starting in earnest on some fundraising events. We have signed up to Parentkind (<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/>) which offers all sorts of ideas and is a useful resource for PTFA's but also for parents in general. You might like to check it out and register your details to receive further information from them.



PARKING VIOLENCE AND RESIDENT COMPLAINTS- AGAIN!!!



Some of you may be aware that on Friday 12th October there was a totally unacceptable incident outside school triggered by inappropriate parking which ended in a fight. The police are dealing with the matter and school helped them with their enquiries.

Clearly, this kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable and very distressing for the children to witness as well as other parents and residents. However, blatantly ignoring the parking restrictions is also unacceptable and this includes sitting in the car with the engine running as if somehow this exempts the driver from the 'no parking' rules. **It does not** and recently this behaviour has generated complaints from residents about noise and pollution as well as the obstruction it causes.

Please, please park elsewhere and walk in. Permits for St Anne's carpark are still available, which is just a 5 minute walk from the front of school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 22nd Oct - Fri 26th Oct - Yr 6 at Stanley Head

Fri 26th Oct - Treat Day

Fri 26th Oct 3:15 p.m.- School closes for half term

Mon 5th Nov 8:45 a.m. - School re-opens

Thurs 8th Nov - Fri 9th Nov - RE Retreat

Sun 11th November 10.45am Remembrance services at Hanley and Kingsway Cenotaphs

Wed 14th Nov - Yr 5 Assembly

Reminders from Admissions

Please be aware that the **deadline** for Secondary School applications is **Wednesday 31st October**. If you haven't already applied for your child's high school you need to do this as soon as possible.

You can apply on line at www.stoke.gov.uk/admissions or a paper copy of the application form can be obtained from the school office.

Nursery parents can apply for a Reception 2019 place from Thursday 1st November 2018. Applications can be made on-line at www.stoke.gov.uk/admissions —closing date for Reception applications is 15th January 2019.

Please be aware that a place at our Nursery does **NOT** guarantee a place in our Reception!

St Luke's Church & Community Centre News

Morning worship every Sunday at 11am. Happy Hippos Parent & Toddler group every Tuesday between 9.15-11am