



# St Lukian Newsletter

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's

Issue 26 June 2019

The summer term is so packed with events that the weeks are racing by and I can't believe we're almost in July! As ever, the newsletter is a recap on some items we may have already celebrated on Dojo or Facebook and some additional items for your information..



Both Rec/ KS1 & KS2 events were able to go ahead on the planned days and it was just great to see the children participating and cheering on their team mates in each of the events. It was also great to see so many parents and relatives cheering the children on too - thank you also if you helped walk the children down to the stadium (always a military operation!). Not everybody enjoys Sports Day and of course not everybody is super sporty so I am always impressed by those children willing to give it a 'good go' knowing that they are unlikely to be the fastest but give of their very best for their team- that's an excellent attitude and sets an example to all. We try hard to include races that do not just rely on being the fastest but require other skills too and sometimes just for fun. However, we make no apologies for having competitive sprint races too as it is also good to celebrate our brilliant athletes, some of course, who are also able across the academic curriculum but for some of our outstanding athletes, Sports Day is their chance to demonstrate their excellence and it is just wonderful to see children shine in this way. Life is not a competition but it is sadly full of disappointments, challenges and the need to look beyond your own preferences and work together as a team, so I am extremely proud of all of our children who took part and gained these very important life skills. Well done to every single one of our participants wherever you came in your race-first, last or somewhere in between!

## SCHOOL REPORT

Your child's school report will be sent home on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Having listened to views of parents and teachers over time and looked at a range of report styles of successful schools, we have changed the format for our Y1 to Y6 reports to ensure they are far more concise and you can see at a glance whether your child is working at an expected level for their age group. A common complaint from parents is that often reports are so full of information but it's sometimes hard for parents to tell exactly how well their child is doing in each subject. Our new format aims to address this so you have a clear concise overview and a colour coded at-a-glance breakdown of your child's attainment in each subject. There are also separate colour coded grades for attendance, behaviour and effort, which are also important. A lovely new addition too is that the children have also written comments so we hope you will find your child's report really clear and helpful but also a lovely keepsake for the future.

## Attendance

For the reports we have to have an early cut-off date for attendance figures so report on attendance up to May half term only and have included a detailed breakdown of your child's record up to that point. Of course, if your child has been absent subsequently, this will not be reflected in your child's report but the statutory recording and reporting of attendance in school continues unchanged. Pupils whose attendance is causing concern will continue to be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer, and school will seek to work with families where there are difficulties. For further information please see the article on page 2 headed Attendance and Holidays in Term time. To celebrate excellent attendance we will be holding our usual Attendance Awards assembly on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July for KS1 at 9:00 a.m. and KS2 at approximately 9:30 a.m.



## Year 5 Trip to Wolseley River Centre

Well done to Year 5 who had a very soggy trip to Wolseley on Tuesday but with waterproofs and wellies at the ready, the children were still able to have lots of fun and learn lots about different habitats and wildlife. Well done children and staff!



## Forest Schools

You may be aware that we've been able to run 3 successful courses of Forest Schools this academic year, run by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust which has been a great success. Thirty six children from Y2 up to Y6 have been able to take part across the three 10 week courses and have benefitted greatly from the outdoor activities they have been offered. We were fortunate that this was free to school via funding from the Opportunity Area but this was for this academic year only. We are therefore delighted that we have been able to access free training so that one of our teachers, Mrs Critchlow, can become qualified to deliver this programme herself, once she has completed the intensive training course. The training involves specific outdoor first aid as well as training on the delivery of the activities and all risk assessment and health and safety procedures. Once Mrs Critchlow is qualified, we will then be able to integrate Forest Schools into our curriculum so that more children can benefit which is really exciting. There's a lot of work for Mrs Critchlow to do but I am really grateful that she has embraced this opportunity to bring quality outdoor learning into our curriculum with all the proven benefits to our children that brings.

Thank you Mrs Critchlow!



## Attendance and Holidays in Term time

As you know we strive to achieve 96% attendance for our pupils so that we are in line with high performing schools in the country- our children deserve nothing less. So many of our families work really hard to support us in this goal, understanding that every day of education is important and every minute too (lateness is just as disruptive)- thank you!! It is disheartening for the school when we are working so hard and making great strides on attendance overall, when parents then take children out of school at very short notice for extended periods of leave- this is unacceptable. Leave of absence in term time is never authorised unless it is for a very short period of time for an exceptional circumstance e.g. a day to attend a family wedding or funeral or to attend an official appointment. Equally saying your child is ill and then your child returns to school with tales of his or her time in the sun, is also unacceptable. I understand the challenges around the pricing of holidays in the set holiday period but I cannot routinely authorise them. Where parents have chosen to take their child out of school when a request has been unauthorised, they do risk receiving a penalty notice in line with Local Authority guidance. However, where their child's attendance has otherwise been excellent, this could be avoided but I can never guarantee this as each situation is judged on its own merits. Where parents take their children out of school with poor attendance and for extended periods of time, this is very likely to trigger a Penalty Notice. Further details on school attendance and absence can be obtained from the government website <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance>.

### Dates for your Diary - to the end of term!

Monday 1st July 2.00pm	New Nursery parents meeting in the Dining room
Tuesday 2nd July 2.00pm	New Nursery parents meeting in the Dining room
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 7.00pm	Musical Mayhem in the hall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2.45pm	KS1 to KS2 Transition meeting for parents in the Dining room
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm	Musical Mayhem in the hall
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports out to parents
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Hanley St Luke's Church Summer Fair at the Church
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr 6 to Cinebowl, Uttoxeter
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	"Bump-up" morning
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm	Praise and Prize Assembly for Reception and KS1 in the hall
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 6.30 – 8.00pm	Year 6 Prom Party
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2.15pm	Nursery end of year Celebration in the hall
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 9.00am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in the hall
Wednesday 17th July 7:00 pm	Prize evening for KS2 in the hall
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 9.00 – 10.00am	Attendance certificates in the hall– FS & KS1 9-9.30am KS2 9:30—10:00 approx
Friday 19th July 9:00 am	End of Year service in the hall
Friday 19th July 3:15 pm	School closes for the summer break!
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 8.45am	School opens

# Holiday Club



We have managed to secure free holiday provision including lunch via the Hubb Foundation for 6 half days (9:00-12:00) over a three week period in the summer holidays. As this is fully-funded, the club can only be accessed by families meeting the Hubb Foundation's criteria so invitation will be sent out to these families next week. If places remain these will be opened out to other families. 45 pupils in any

session is the maximum and they must be aged 5 or above.

However, we have also organised a separate top up provision from 12-4:00 pm on each of the days the Hubb Foundation is running the club and a third day on each of the weeks (9am—4pm). This will be a heavily subsidised offer using Opportunity Area funding to keep costs to parents to a minimum (£2.50 for half day and £5 for full day). Again, we do have to ensure this provision is offered to our most needy families first but any remaining places will be offered out to all families. So if you would like your child to come to both clubs on all three days the total cost for the week would be £10.00.

The dates of both clubs are as follows:

Hubb Foundation Provision 9:00 – 12 noon	Cost for AM session	ASM Sports Provision 12 noon - 4:00	Cost for PM session	ASM Sports Provision Thursday 9 a.m until 4 p.m	Cost for Thursday 9:00 -4:00
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	FREE	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	£2.50		
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	FREE	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	£2.50		
				Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	£5.00
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	FREE	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	£2.50		
Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> August	FREE	Wed. 7 <sup>th</sup> August	£2.50		
				Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	£5.00
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	FREE	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	£2.50		
Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> August	FREE	Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> August	£2.50		
				Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	£5.00

You will receive your invitations via our online booking/[eduspot.co.uk](http://eduspot.co.uk) payment system and will need to complete a registration form via the office by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, after which point remaining places will be on a first come first served basis.

