Love God. Love your neighbour as yourself:
Be the Good Samaritan. Luke 10. 25-37

ST LUKE'S NEWS

MARCH 2026

Our Vision Statement

Inspired by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, we live out our love for God through collective worship and meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth. Rooted in God's unconditional love, we treat everyone with respect and compassion, nurturing a safe, loving, inclusive school where everyone belongs. Learning together, we flourish and reach our full potential. We empower each other to make positive change for the community we share.

*At St Luke's, we **Love, Include, Flourish**, and **Empower** – our **L.I.F.E.** principles.*

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy term, this will be my final newsletter to you as Headteacher of St Luke's.

It has been a very full and productive term for the school. One of the most significant events was the visit from Sara Sanbrook Davies, who came to conduct our SIAMS inspection. SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) looks at how well a Church school is living out its Christian vision in all aspects of school life – including leadership, the curriculum, collective worship and the way we support every child to flourish. This inspection is particularly important for Church schools as it recognises how effectively the school's vision shapes the culture, ethos and daily experience of pupils and staff. The school received a "Requires Improvement" judgement at the last SIAMS inspection in 2019. For that reason, this inspection represented an important milestone for the school. We hope you enjoyed reading the report. We are very proud to have received the "highest possible judgement!"

On March 13th, we also held our INSET day, where staff engaged in a range of professional development activities. This included training on Colourful Semantics, Shape Coding, and further curriculum development work as we begin introducing CUSP (Curriculum with Unity Schools Partnership). CUSP supports high-quality teaching and learning in areas such as reading, writing and early reading, helping us continue to strengthen the curriculum for all pupils.

Last week our Year 5 pupils visited Cardfields, and thankfully the sun was shining for them. These residential experiences are always a highlight of the year and provide wonderful opportunities for children to develop confidence, teamwork and independence. My sincere thanks go to Ms Mendes, Mr Seifert, Soroya and Sam for giving their time to support the visit and make it such a success for the children.

We also had our Easter Service at St Giles on Tuesday, which is always a memorable and special moment in the life of the school. These occasions give us an opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on the meaning of Easter and celebrate this important time in the Christian calendar. Thank you to our Year 4's and Swoosh for their Easter Resurrection Dance performance.

Today you heard from our Chair of Governors in regards to the interim team leading St Luke's from 13th April. This will be led by Laura Hall, who is an Executive Headteacher who leads a partnership of Camden church schools. She will be supported by two experienced members of her existing team who will become co-Heads of School:

- Fran Bear (Mrs Bear) Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- Ben Williams (Mr Williams) Thursday and Friday

They are looking forward to meeting you all and working alongside the school's current leadership team of:

- Hannah Bryant- School's Business Manger
- Keith Grey- Assistant Head
- Bisi Damolekun- Assistant Head
- Miriam Macallan- SENDCo and Early Years Lead
- Lisa Harrington- RE Lead

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as a steward and servant leader of this Church of England school. St Luke's is a very special community and your support as parents and carers has been invaluable throughout my time here.Looking back over the past two years, I feel both emotional about leaving and incredibly proud of the journey the school has taken. Staff, governors and the wider community have worked extremely hard to strengthen the school's culture, expectations and provision. It has been deeply rewarding to see the confidence and momentum that now exists across the school.

My final working day will be **Friday 17th April,** and I will say a more formal goodbye to the children in assembly on that day, when governors will also be present.

I leave St Luke's incredibly proud of all that has been achieved and confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve this community.

With gratitude and warmest wishes,

Tom O'Donnell



Safeguarding Update

At St Luke's, safeguarding remains our highest priority. Creating a school where every child feels safe, valued and able to thrive is fundamental to everything we do. Safeguarding is not a single action or policy; it is a culture that underpins the daily life of our school.

Francesca Bear and Ben Williams will jointly take over the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The broader safeguarding team works closely together to ensure that concerns are responded to quickly, appropriately and in the best interests of children. Staff across the school are trained to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, and any worries about a child's wellbeing are reported immediately through our safeguarding systems.

This approach ensures safeguarding remains visible, regularly discussed and embedded in everyday practice.

Working with Families and Other Agencies

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility. When concerns arise, the school works closely with a range of partners to ensure families receive the right support. These partners may include:

- Children's Social Care
  Early Help services
- Health professionals
- The police
- Other education professionals and safeguarding services

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Parents and carers play an essential role in safeguarding. If you ever have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child—whether your own or another child—please do speak to us. Concerns can be raised directly with the school office or with a member of the safeguarding team. By working together as a school community, we can ensure that St Luke's remains a place where children feel safe, supported and able to flourish.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Tom O'Donnell

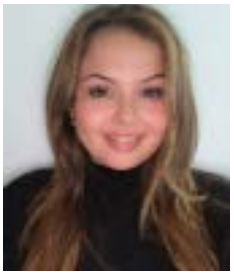


Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Anisa Lucey, (Learning Mentor, Attendance and Welfare Officer), Keith Grey, (Assistant Headteacher, English/Curriculum Lead and Year 6 teacher) and Vicki Hills (Child and Family Support Worker and Extended Day Lead)

SENDCO: Miriam Macallan









Attendance Matters

At St Luke's, we place a very high value on excellent attendance, as we know it plays a crucial role in children's academic success, wellbeing and sense of belonging in school.

Every day in school matters. When children attend regularly, they are able to fully engage with their learning, build secure friendships and develop the confidence and routines that support them both academically and socially.

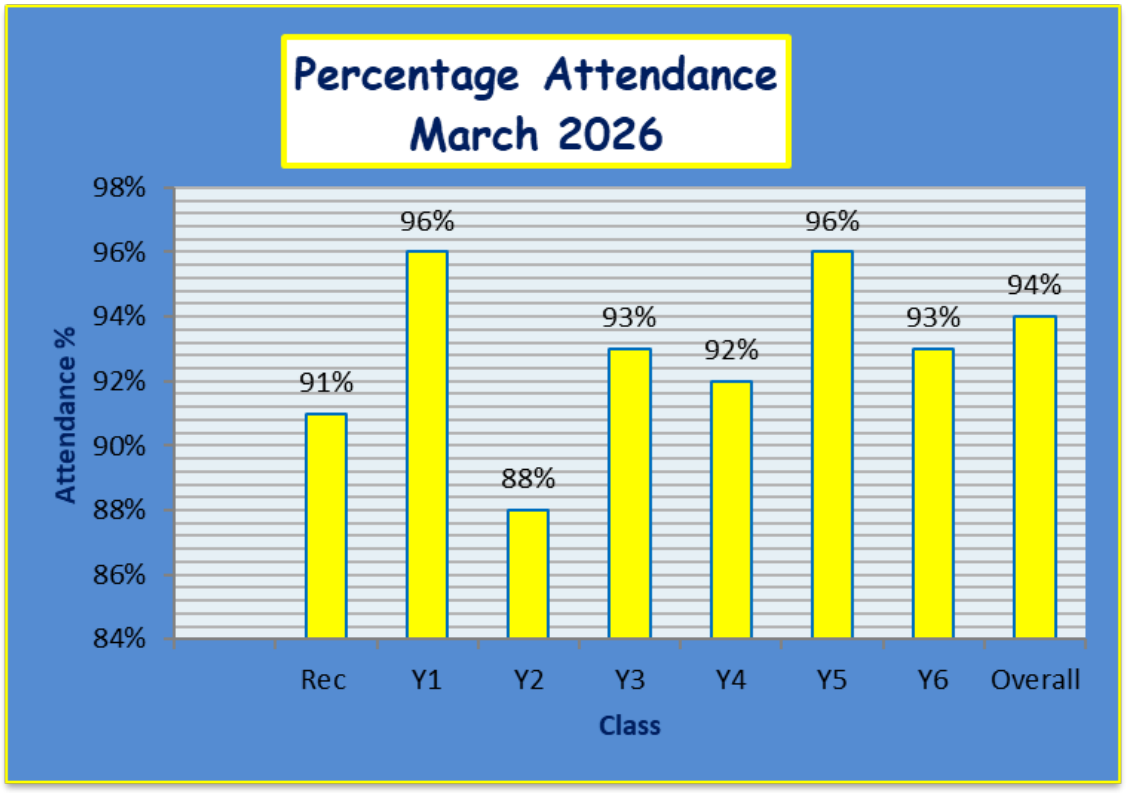
- establish positive routines and habits for learning
- While we understand that children will occasionally be absent due to illness, we encourage families to avoid taking holidays during term time wherever possible, as this can disrupt learning and make it harder for children to maintain continuity in their education.

Working Together

Attendance is a partnership between home and school. Our team carefully monitors attendance and works closely with families to offer support where needed. If there are challenges affecting your child's attendance, please do speak with us. We are always keen to work together to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

By working together as a school community, we can ensure that every child at St Luke's benefits from the consistent attendance that supports both strong learning and positive wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support.





Naturehood Update

Happy Spring Everyone 🌻🌼🌹🌷🌸🌺🐝🦋🐸

It's so uplifting to see all the plants and wildlife wake up - flowers, fresh tree leaves, bees, butterflies - giving us all joy and happiness.

The planters across the school grounds are blooming with all the daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers that many children planted in the autumn months over the past two years 🙂.

The children are enjoying watching them grow and can still identify which ones they planted!! It's great to see the care given to the plants during lunchtimes and after school - watering and removing dead flower heads 🙂 Thank you to all the children and staff who are helping to nurture the green life.

Year 6 enjoyed an afternoon mapping our site as part of the National Education Nature Park Programme. In groups, the children explored the gardens and grounds, mapping all the micro habitats and planters onto a printed map. They were happy to discover that there are quite a few places for wildlife to live across our playgrounds and garden spaces, such as log piles, insect habitats, an insect hotel and the beautiful pond which supports an array of aquatic life. The many raised planters filled with a variety of plants also provide forage and shelter for wildlife. St Luke's is becoming more and more biodiverse and we will continue to have green spaces for wildlife and us.

The Early Years children had a great time sowing sunflower seeds in pots to take home, care for and watch grow. We are taking part in the London Children's Flower Society's Summer Competition again this year so will be asking you to bring your lovely sunflowers in to school for just one day in July to receive a certificate from the visiting flower judge. Exciting 🙂.

All children will have opportunities to sow seeds in pots to take home, and in pots and planters across our school as the spring and summer months progress.

Happy growing everyone
Sophia Ioannou

Sports Coach Update



Our football team achieved a fantastic milestone by reaching the finals of the Pokémon ESFA 7-a-side tournament. This is a brilliant accomplishment.

Although they narrowly missed out on winning in the final, they should be incredibly proud of their performance and the way they represented the school.

A big thank you also goes to the parents and carers who supported the team and assisted Alan and Sancia with the trip — your help is greatly appreciated.

Well done to everyone involved! - Mr Bennett

Dates for your Diary

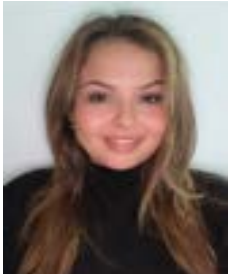
Key dates	Event
April 2026	
Monday 13th	Children return to school. Nursery closed.
Tuesday 14th	Nursery children return to school
Monday 20th	Mock SATS week
Tues 28th	9.15 Y5 sharing assembly
May 2026	
Tues 5th	9.15 Y4 sharing assembly
Thurs 7th	9.15 EYFS open morning
Monday 11th - 14th	SATS week
Monday 18th - 21st	Y6 residential - Stubbers
Tues 19th	9.15 Y1 sharing assembly
Friday 22nd	Break up for Half term

MORE DATES TO FOLLOW

*Please note that key dates are also available via the school's website using the link below:
https://www.st-lukesislington.co.uk/diary/list/

Children/Family Support Worker

Happy Easter everyone! I work with children to support them in their school environment, focusing on their social and emotional wellbeing to help them feel safe, confident, and ready to learn. If you or your family are experiencing any difficulties and would like some support, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will also be holding a coffee morning next term (date to be confirmed), which will focus on supporting our Year 6 pupils as they transition to Year 7. This will be a valuable opportunity to ask questions, share information, and connect with other parents and carers, and I warmly encourage you to attend



After-School Clubs and Enrichment at St Luke's

Our current enrichment and after-school offer is below:

Monday

- Multi-Sports (Years 3–6, open to all, fee applies) – Mr Bennett
- History Able & Talented (Year 5/6, selected) – Mike Greenwood
- Young Women's Group (Years 5–6, open to all) – Vicki Hills, Nick Crivello at Soapbox Youth Centre

Tuesday

- Football Development Squad (Years 3–6, selected, fee applies) – Mr Bennett

Wednesday

- Arsenal Double Club (Years 3–6, open to all, free) – Vicki Hills & Henry Milton (Arsenal) at Vibast Community Centre

Thursday

- Maths Able & Talented (Years 4 & 5, selected) – Mrs Damolekun, Jill Nicholls, Stephen Barber
- Debate It (Years 5–6, selected) – Natalia Guitterez & Hogan Lovells Volunteers
- Drama (Years 1–3, open to all, fee applies) – Sarah Mackenzie (Swoosh)

Friday

- Choir (Years 5-6) Mr Jones

If you would like more information or wish to enrol your child, please speak to Vicki Hills. We are always looking to expand our offer, so if you have links, partnerships, or personal interests you would like to share with our children, we would love to hear from you.

Class news

Nursery update

This month in Nursery, the children have taken part in a range of fun and engaging activities. They thoroughly enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, dressing up as princesses, superheroes, and mythical creatures, which inspired lots of imaginative play and storytelling.

We have been exploring the natural world by planting sunflower seeds and learning how to care for them. A visit to the pond area gave the children the opportunity to observe frogspawn and frogs, linking to our learning about the frog life cycle.

In science, we have focused on our senses, with the children taking part in hands-on activities to explore sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. We also looked at sound, learning how different sounds are made and encouraging careful listening.





Reception update

Reception class have been busy learning Phase 3 sounds in phonics. The children are learning to blend digraphs and trigraphs—very tricky!

In Maths, we have moved on to 3D shapes. We have been identifying 3D shapes in our environment and exploring the 2D shapes on their faces. Cubes have square faces, and cuboids have rectangular faces.

This term, we have been working with Nursery to create a mythical creature linked to the painting *A Muse (Calliope)* by Cosimo Tura. The creatures have been created by combining different features from a range of animals.

This week, we had a special visit from Derek the donkey, and many of our children took part in Bikeability— a great end to the term!





Year 1 update

Year 1 have had another busy few weeks!

In English, we have loved reading Little Red Riding Hood, thinking about the different characters and having a debate about whether the Wolf was all bad! We have also begun to write our own version of Little Red Riding Hood with an alternative main character.

In Maths, we have moved on to place value (within 50) and have begun counting in 10s, as well as consolidating our doubles knowledge.

In RE, as part of our Easter unit, we have been making an Easter Garden as part of learning about Holy Week.

In Science, we have been investigating floating and sinking. We predicted what would happen then tried it out!

As part of the Take One Picture project, we looked at the painting: *A Muse (Calliope)* by Cosimo Tura. We were fascinated by the sea creatures and dragons in it and made wonderful prints of our own sea monsters.

This week, we have all been taking part in Bikeability, which has been a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills.

Lastly, we all enjoyed walking to St Giles' Church behind Derek the donkey to take part in our Easter Service.





Our Easter Garden Floating and sinking Bikeability

Year 2 update

Year 2 have had a lovely end to a busy term!

We are learning all things about pirates, from using adjectives to describe them in English to understanding the seven seas in History/geography. It has been a very fun unit!

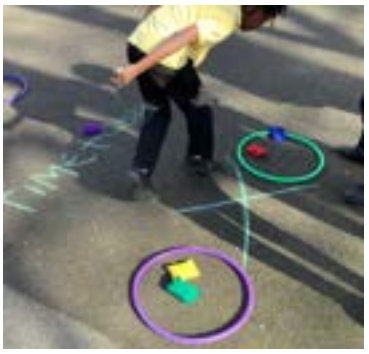
We loved getting dressed up for Book Day and bringing our characters to life.

In Maths, we are becoming multiplication experts!! We have been taking some of our learning outside in the sun and using hoops to understand multiplication grouping.

We have created a beautiful group art project for our 'Take One Picture' project. This creative project asked students to study an artwork, and create a piece to reflect the original. We looked at the beautiful soft shapes in the details of the dress in the original and wanted to replicate a work that represents these shapes and lines. We proudly have our art displayed in the classroom.


Book week (left)

Multiplication games (below) Take One Picture class project (below)


Year 3 update

Year 3 have had a busy and fun-packed term. We celebrated World Book Day, where we dressed up as our favourite book characters. We really enjoyed gardening with Kirsty, where we planted some seeds and bulbs – it got very messy! There has also been some very impressive sewing linked to our 'Take One Picture' project. In English and reading, we have been learning lots about the Stone Age. Swimming was great fun! Everyone behaved brilliantly and showed excellent resilience and developing skills in the pool – well done, everyone!





Year 4 update

This week in Year 4, we have been busy developing our maths and English skills. In maths, we explored perimeter, learning how to measure and calculate the distance around shapes, and began our new topic on fractions. The children showed great enthusiasm as they tackled these new challenges and built their confidence. In English, we looked at kenning poems and practised using alliteration to create imaginative and descriptive phrases. The class enjoyed experimenting with language and coming up with their own creative ideas. We also continued working with our cricket coach, where the children have been developing their batting, bowling and teamwork skills. In addition, we have been learning our Easter dance with Swoosh, showing fantastic energy, coordination and creativity throughout. It has been a wonderful week of learning across the curriculum!





Year 5 update

What a fantastic spring term Year 5 has had! The children explored mood in art through the Take One Picture Project, creating their own versions of *A Muse by Cosimo Tura* from the National Gallery. Our writing has been focused on Ernest Shackleton where we explored his early life, expedition to Antarctica and his achievements ready for the children to publish their own biographies! Last week, Year 5 had an amazing trip to Cardfields where they enjoyed BMX biking, orienteering, a 6-mile hike and the "Save the Egg" challenge- two eggs out of four survived, hooray! The children showed great effort and resilience, leaving Cardfields feeling empowered to try new things, embracing challenges and flourishing in their own strengths and skills.

(Year 5 at Cardfields)





Art Project



Year 6 update

Year 6 have been very busy preparing for their forthcoming SATs in maths , Reading Grammar and spellings. In addition to this, they have been making sea monster sculptures during their design and technology lessons. In RE, they have been learning about the importance of Easter to Christians and the significance of the Resurrection of Jesus.

REMINDERS

Nursery applications

If you know any families who have a child who was born between: **1 September 2021 – 31 August 2023** they are eligible for a space in our lovely Nursery. Please do put them in touch with us.

Uniform

Thank you for adhering to our expectations around school uniforms. Our policy and updated guidance can be found here:
https://www.st-lukesislington.co.uk/uniform-information/
Please note the school has two Lost Property crates stored in the Family Kitchen. If your child has lost any items of clothing last term or this term, please contact the office who can give you access to our Lost Property crates. We also have lots of spare uniform that has been donated available in our Family Kitchen. Please check what we have on offer before buying replacement items for your children.

Scooters and Bikes

Bikes and scooters should not be ridden in the playground.

Please be aware all bikes and scooters parked in the playgrounds

Are left at your own risk!

We do not take responsibility for any that are lost or stolen.

We would advise you to put your child's name on them.

Birthday cakes and party bags

Please note we are a Healthy School and cannot give out birthday cake and party bags in the classroom.
Parents can however give out cake and bags outside their child's classroom at hometime.

Free School Meals

Islington Council offers free school meals to all Primary school age children. If you are in receipt of a benefit and you register on the Islington website you may also be entitled to a food voucher in the holidays - which total £15.00 a week per child. Please register here:

https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/help-with-childcare-and-family-costs/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant

PUPIL CONTACT DETAILS

We are constantly updating our pupil records. Please call on 0207 253 3880 or pop into the school office to provide us with your **email address** if you have one.

We now require a minimum of three contacts for your children
It is very important that we have up to date contact information in case of an emergency.
Also, please inform us if you have changed address or phone number recently.
Thank you.

Contact us: Tel – 020 7253 3880 Email – admin@st-lukes.islington.sch.uk
Website www.st-lukesislington.co.uk X (Twitter) @stlukesoldst

Instagram @stlukesoldst