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

ST LUKE'S NEWS

FEBRUARY 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,

Following the letter sent out just before half term, I want to thank you for the many kind messages and conversations over the past few days. Your warmth and generosity reflect exactly what makes St Luke's such a special community. I have spoken with all of the children in Years 1-6, and we spent time reflecting together on what change means. We talked about stewardship — caring for something well for a time and helping it to flourish — and about how a school is much bigger than one person. The children responded with maturity, thoughtfulness and confidence. It was a privilege to see their strength of character in action. Our leadership team, governors, church partners and staff continue to work closely together to ensure stability and continuity. St Luke's is a strong school, rooted in a clear vision and supported by a committed community.

As we move forward, our focus remains firmly on the children and on the daily life of the school. There is much to look forward to this term: Year 6 preparing for SATs and receiving secondary offers, Year 5's residential, swimming for Years 3 and 4, Bikeability for Years 1 and 2, and the continued embedding of our reading and writing curriculum. We also anticipate our SIAMS inspection, which will give us the opportunity to celebrate how our Christian vision shapes life at St Luke's each day.

Over the past few weeks, we have continued to see the school flourish in so many ways. Our half-termly Project Gallery was a wonderful celebration of creativity, depth of learning and pupil voice. The standard of work on display — from detailed written outcomes to carefully crafted models and artwork — reflected both pride and purpose. It was inspiring to see children confidently sharing their learning with families and explaining the thinking behind their projects.

In sport, our teams continue to represent the school with commitment and enthusiasm. Our football team has shown great teamwork and resilience in recent fixtures, and our pupils took part in a table tennis tournament, making excellent use of our new table and demonstrating both skill and sportsmanship. We are proud not only of their results, but of the way they conduct themselves as ambassadors for the school.

We were also delighted that a group of pupils attended the annual London Diocesan Board for Schools service at St Paul's Cathedral — a special event bringing together Church schools from across the diocese. It was a memorable occasion and a powerful reminder of being part of something bigger than ourselves. My sincere thanks to Lisa Harrington for organising and supporting this visit so thoughtfully.

We are delighted to share that our application for capital injection funding has been successful, enabling us to further strengthen our provision for pupils with SEND. Over the half-term break, building work began on our new Sensory and Movement Space — an exciting development designed to support pupils who benefit from sensory regulation, movement breaks and personalised therapeutic provision. This dedicated space will provide a calm, structured environment to help children develop self-regulation, focus and confidence, ensuring they are fully supported to flourish both academically and emotionally.

I have been in school over the holidays and have seen first-hand the significant progress already made. Alan has worked incredibly hard alongside contractors to ensure the project has moved forward smoothly and efficiently. His commitment to improving our environment for children is greatly appreciated. We are hopeful that the space will be completed after the Easter holidays and look forward to sharing further updates — and photographs — once it is ready.

As Ramadan began last Tuesday, I would also like to extend my warmest wishes to all of our Muslim families observing this holy month. Ramadan is a deeply spiritual time of prayer, reflection, self-discipline and generosity. It offers an opportunity to pause, give thanks and focus on compassion and community — values that resonate strongly within our own school vision. We wish those observing Ramadan a peaceful and blessed month, and we look forward to celebrating Eid with you in due course.

As ever, our focus remains on ensuring that every child continues to flourish — academically, socially and spiritually. There is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead, and I remain fully committed to the life of the school as we move through this important half term together.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Tom O’Donnell



Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding remains at the heart of all we do at St Luke's, and this half term's Open Classroom events provided an important opportunity to strengthen our partnership with families — particularly around online safety and the use of AI.

The purpose of Open Classroom is not only to celebrate children's learning, but also to give parents and carers insight into the knowledge, skills and understanding we are developing in school. This recent session had a strong safeguarding focus, particularly around how we teach pupils to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly and critically.

With the rapid development of artificial intelligence and online tools, it is essential that children understand both the opportunities and the risks. Through our computing and PSHE curriculum, we teach pupils about privacy, digital footprints, misinformation, age-appropriate use of technology and how to seek help if something feels unsafe. We are clear that safeguarding in 2026 includes digital safeguarding, and we remain proactive in addressing this.

A particular thank you to our Digital Leaders, who spoke confidently about their role in promoting safe online behaviours and supporting their peers. They are excellent ambassadors for responsible technology use. My sincere thanks also to Ms Mendes for the significant work she has put into developing our digital safeguarding provision and ensuring that our curriculum remains current, relevant and protective.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended and engaged so thoughtfully. Safeguarding is most effective when school and home work together. Your presence, questions and conversations help ensure that our children receive consistent messages about staying safe, thinking critically and acting responsibly — both online and offline.

As always, if you have any concerns or would like further guidance about online safety or AI, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Working together, we continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of every child.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Tom O'Donnell

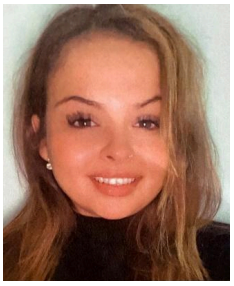


Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Anisa Lucey, (Learning Mentor, Attendance and Welfare Officer), Keith Grey, (Assistant Headteacher, English/Curriculum Lead and Year 6 teacher) and Vicky Hills (Child and Family Support Worker and Extended Day Lead)

SENDCO's: Rebecca Wieckowska **Year 1-6**, Miriam Macallan **EY**







SENDCO's





Attendance Matters

Attendance remains a key school priority because being in school every day has a direct impact on children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. We are proud that attendance forms part of our positive incentive drive: each week in assembly, I present certificates to pupils who have shown improved attendance compared to last year. It has been encouraging to see children respond so positively, taking pride in their progress and recognising that every day truly matters.

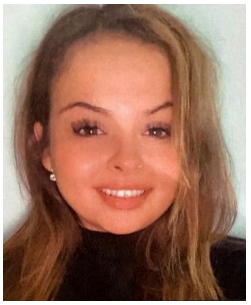
However, we have seen an increase in applications for term-time leave. While we understand that families may face complex circumstances, time away from school during term time can significantly disrupt learning, routines and social development. Even short absences can result in gaps that are difficult to recover from, particularly in core subjects.

Under the current legal framework, schools are not permitted to authorise leave during term time except in *exceptional circumstances*. The Department for Education is clear that family holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances. Where unauthorised leave is taken, the school is required to follow statutory guidance, which may include referral to the Local Authority and the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Our approach remains supportive and relational: we want to work with families to ensure children attend regularly and on time. Strong attendance is a safeguarding priority and a shared responsibility. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child is present, punctual and ready to flourish each day.







Tom O'Donnell, Anisa Lucey and Vicki Hills

LDBS St Paul's Cathedral Annual Service 2026

On 12th February, St Luke's once again took part in the annual service for LDBS schools at St Paul's Cathedral. The theme this year was: 'The Power of Forgiveness: Restoring Relationship'. We loved the service and enjoyed proudly walking our school banner through the cathedral. We also took along our completed art jigsaw piece which was joined together with the other schools.





Sports Coach Update

As we begin a new term, our focus in PE continues to build progressively across all key stages.

In EYFS, we continue to develop the children's fundamental movement skills, with a strong emphasis on agility, balance and coordination. These core skills are essential for building confidence and physical literacy.

In Key Stage 1, the focus this term is on invasion games. Pupils will begin to develop their understanding of attacking and defending within team games, learning how to apply simple tactics in game situations.

In Key Stage 2, lessons will centre around basketball, developing skills such as passing, dribbling, shooting and teamwork. Year 5 will also take part in an additional unit of tag rugby this term.

A big well done to Year 5 for their excellent work in Dance — they successfully created and performed a very impressive routine.

Our football team recently played against one of the strongest teams, Moreland, and won 2-0 they showed great determination throughout the match.

Special recognition goes to our standout players, Patrick (Year 6) and Maisie (Year 6).

We look forward to our next match on 3rd March.

Mr Bennett



Dates for your Diary

Key dates	Event
March 2026	
Thurs 5th	World book day-Dress up day
Mon 9th	Year 3 swimming for the next 2 weeks
Fri 13th	**INSET DAY**
Monday 16th	9.15 School mass
Weds 19th - Fri 20th	Year 5 to Cardfields
Mon 23	Prizegiving Year 1,2 and 3
Tues 24th	10.30 St Giles Easter Service with the Donkey
Wed 25th	Prizegiving Year 4,5 and 6
Weds 25th	9.15 EYFS open morning
Thurs 26th	Prizegiving EYFS
Friday 27th	**2.00pm finish Break up for Easter**
April 2026	
April 13th	Children return to school

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/

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

- Drama (Years 5–6, open to all, free) – Vicki Hills, Nick Crivello at Soapbox Youth Centre
- 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

We have had a wonderfully busy and creative month in Early Years. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, exploring the story of the Great Race and discovering how the years were named. They proudly created beautiful Chinese lanterns and traditional fans, showing great care and creativity. We also enjoyed making thoughtful Valentine's Day cards for our loved ones. Our focus book, *The Colour Monster*, sparked fantastic discussions about feelings and emotions. The children have been learning to recognise and talk about how they feel, and they loved designing their own Colour Monsters to represent their emotions.

In Maths, the children have been developing their sorting skills. They have been learning to sort objects into different groups, such as by colour, shape and size, and to explain how they know which group an object belongs to. We have been encouraging the children to talk about their thinking and notice similarities and differences. In RE, we explored the idea that different items and people can be special to us and bring comfort and security. We also learnt about the Parable of the Lost Sheep, reflecting on how each and every one of us is special, valued and cared for.



Colour Monster pictures



Valentine's Day Cards



Chinese lantern making

Reception update

Reception class have been very busy applying their phonics skills to support the development of their reading and writing. The children have also been strengthening their fine motor skills through our creative *Drawing Club* sessions, where they have enjoyed exploring ideas and mark making. Learning new vocabulary has been lots of fun too, with the children using actions to help them remember and understand new words.

In maths, the children have been focusing on numbers 1–8. They have been learning how to form numbers correctly, subitise amounts, and compare quantities with growing confidence. We have recently completed our science topic, *Our Body*. The children learned about the importance of different facial features, as well as our ears and hair, and enjoyed discussing how our bodies help us every day.

A big thank you to all the families who were able to attend our EYFS open morning. It was a really lovely and special time for the children to celebrate Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day with their parents and carers. We hope to see you all again at the next one!



Valentine's Day cards



Hammer and nail art



Chinese lantern making

Year 1 update

Year 1 had a great half term! We have continued to work hard on our phonics, consolidating the digraphs and sound families that we know. We loved reading *The Snail and The Whale* and have written and drawn our own beautiful post cards from Bali!

Our Maths unit has been Addition and Subtraction (within 20), including doubling. We have also learnt a great song to help us remember our number bonds to 10 - now, we want to learn our number bonds to 20!

In Art, we had a great time looking at different kinds of bug hotels and making our own bug hotel designs. When it finally stopped raining, we went outside and collected pine cones, leaves and twigs to put in our big Class Bug Hotel in the outside learning area.

Our Big Question in R.E. was '*What is it like to live as a Jewish person?*'. We looked at different artefacts that are special for Jewish people, as well as learning about Shabbat and the special food that Jewish families eat on Shabbat. We tried some challah bread - it was delicious!





Making our bug hotel!





Tasting challah bread!

Year 2 update

Year 2 have had a great end to the term. I cannot be prouder of their wonderful diary entry recounts of the Great Fire of London and the focus they had on their writing! It has been wonderful to see.

In science, we have been experimenting with materials and weight. We have investigated how bridges are created and got to make our own! We have learnt new vocabulary and enjoyed our experiments.

In RE, we have been learning about Judaism and understanding some of the festivals celebrated! We have been lucky enough to eat some of the traditional foods and hear from a special guest.

Our maths learning has been exploring money, shapes and multiplication!










Science experiments in class

Year 3 update

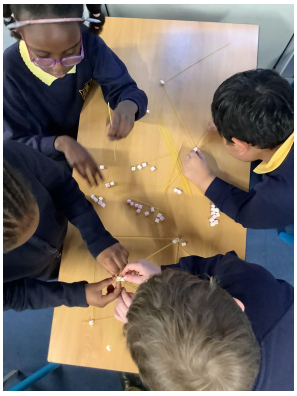
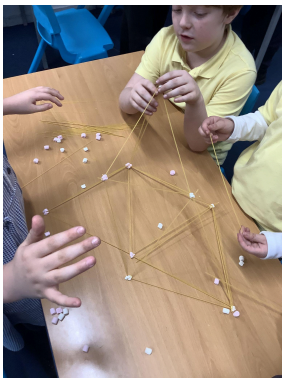
Year 3 had a fantastic end to the term! We proudly published our own version of *Escape from Pompeii*, and our writing was creative and brilliantly descriptive. We worked incredibly hard to bring our own version of the story to life and should feel very proud of the results.

We also worked brilliantly as a team to design and build earthquake-proof structures using spaghetti and marshmallows. To simulate the movement of an earthquake, we used jelly and placed our buildings on top – it was great fun and a fantastic way to test our designs!

We have continued to enjoy Music, exploring different instruments and action songs with great enthusiasm.

Multiplication and division have remained a key focus in Maths. We have shown real resilience in this area by staying focused, practising regularly and working extremely hard to build our confidence.

In RE, we thoroughly enjoyed learning about Judaism. We discovered more about what it means to be Jewish by exploring Passover and the Ten Commandments, asking thoughtful questions and sharing our ideas.

Year 4 update

In Maths, we have now completed our unit on multiplication and division. The children worked hard to develop their confidence with formal methods and problem-solving strategies. We have now moved on to learning about length and perimeter, carefully measuring and calculating the distance around shapes.

In Art, we proudly finished our Ancient Egyptian canopic jars. The children showed fantastic creativity and attention to detail, and the final pieces look amazing! In English, we completed our exciting adventure stories. The children worked brilliantly to build tension, develop characters and use powerful vocabulary. We are especially proud to share that six children had their work published by Young Writers — a huge congratulations to Ahman, Aryan, Hannah, Jana, Amanah and Randa on this fantastic achievement! In PE, we have started cricket coaching, where the children are developing their batting, bowling and fielding skills. We have also begun our swimming lessons, with pupils building confidence and improving their technique in the water.






Year 5 update

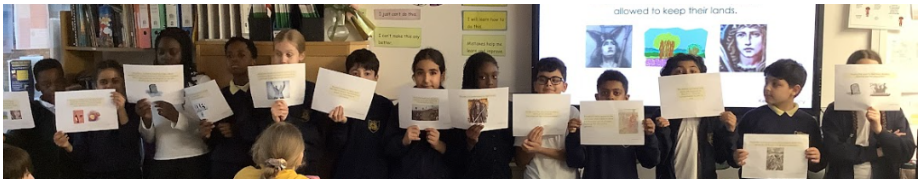
Year 5 had another fantastic month filled with creativity, resilience and fun! In History, they learnt about Boudicca and created a detailed timeline of her life. This helped them to understand her role as a powerful Celtic queen who led a rebellion against the Romans. Then, the children wrote and published their own adventure stories in Literacy about a brave messenger delivering an important message to Boudicca.

In DT, they designed and created their very own Roman purses. They explored different stitching styles, carefully practised different techniques and then chose their favourite to sew their final bags. The finished purses looked fantastic! In PE, Year 5 learnt the candy line dance which encouraged the children to step outside their comfort zone and grow in confidence as performers. It was wonderful to see everyone joining in, supporting each other and dancing with big smiles. On Tuesday 10th February, the children celebrated Safer Internet Day. They learnt about how AI can be misused. They had thoughtful discussions, identifying potential risks and shared sensible ways AI can be used safely and responsibly. What a class of AI experts!



Roman purse created in DT

Chronological timeline of Boudicca's Life

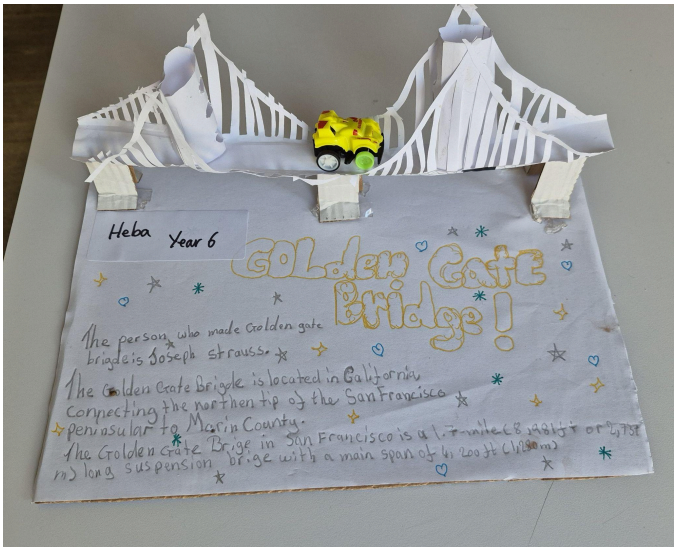


Year 6 update

Year 6 have completed their Geography unit about the United States of America by learning about the formation of The Grand Canyon in Arizona. The U.S.A link continued in English, with children reading the classic modern novel 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, set in Western USA. In R.E, children have read the stories of the prodigal son and Zacchaeus the tax collector. These stories demonstrate how God provides salvation, forgiveness and hope.

Preparation for the forthcoming SATS is gearing up with children having additional lessons in English and Maths. They are all making good progress.





Homework project examples - The United States of America

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 do 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