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

ST LUKE'S NEWS

JANUARY 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,

A belated Happy New Year to you all. As we settle back into the spring term, the importance of strong routines and predictability following the Christmas period cannot be overstated. These structures provide children with a sense of security and calm, supporting both learning and wellbeing. I hope you have already seen the positive impact that returning to familiar routines has had for your child.

I am delighted to welcome Rebecca Wieckowska, who has joined us as Interim SENDCo for Years 1–6. Miriam MacAllan will be overseeing SEND provision in Early Years. I would like to thank them both for hitting the ground running and taking the time to get to know our systems and children so quickly and thoughtfully.

We have enjoyed a real flurry of trips recently, with Year 1 visiting the Natural History Museum, Year 4 exploring the Science Museum, and Year 3 taking part in STEAM workshops at Lyceum School. These experiences truly enrich our curriculum and play a vital role in developing our pupils' cultural capital.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of attending the Year 3 class assembly, which had been carried over from last term. Well done to Mr Randall, Pauline and Natalia – and most importantly to the children, who made us all very proud.

A reminder that School Mass will take place on Monday at 9:15am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us as we come together in worship, reflecting the strong Christian distinctiveness at the heart of our school community. Thank you to the group of parents who came into school to meet with our Christian Distinctiveness Partner. We truly appreciate you giving your time, particularly as we prepare for our upcoming SIAMS inspection.

Our pupils have also represented the school with great enthusiasm in recent sporting competitions. They played against Hugh Myddleton, securing a 1–1 draw, and also more recently took part in a dodgeball tournament with schools across Islington. These events are invaluable in developing teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship, and we are very proud of all who took part.

A reminder to our Year 5 parents/carers that your child's Cardfields payment is available on Arbor to secure your child's place. We will be reviewing this provision in due course.

Finally, I'd like to thank Vicki Hills, our new Child and Family Support Worker, who has spent considerable time supporting some of our more vulnerable children through restorative follow-up work, while also ensuring that our popular hot chocolate initiative continues to run smoothly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Tom O'Donnell



Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding remains our highest priority, and we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of sharing any concerns about conduct, wellbeing, or safety with the school as early as possible. Prompt reporting allows us to respond effectively, put appropriate support in place, and work together in the best interests of every child.

We are also continuing to place a strong emphasis on digital safety. Children are increasingly exposed to online content and interactions that can be confusing, distressing, or inappropriate for their age. We encourage families to maintain open conversations at home about online behaviour, screen time, and who children can speak to if something worries them. Our curriculum and pastoral work reinforce these messages in school, helping pupils develop the skills to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Alongside this, we are mindful of the impact of emotional regulation and dysregulation on children's wellbeing and learning. Sustained periods of emotional distress or dysregulation can significantly affect a child's ability to engage, build relationships, and feel secure. While we are not health professionals, we are highly experienced in recognising when a child may need additional support. We will always work closely with families and, where appropriate, with external professionals to ensure children receive the right help at the right time.

Strong parent partnerships are central to effective safeguarding. We value open, respectful communication and appreciate the trust you place in us when sharing concerns. Our staff consistently go above and beyond to support children, whether through careful monitoring, restorative conversations, pastoral interventions, or liaising with outside agencies. This work often happens quietly and behind the scenes, but it is driven by a shared commitment to keeping children safe, supported, and able to thrive.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe and nurturing school community.

Please see the members of the Safeguarding team below:

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 (Extended Day Lead)







SENDCO's



Rebecca Wieckowska
Year 1-6 SENDCo



Miriam Macallan
EY SENDCo

Attendance matters. A lot.

The impact on learning from poor attendance is stark: at Key Stage 2, pupils with 95-100% attendance were 1.3 times more likely to reach expected standards in reading, writing & maths than those with 90-95%.

- Learning loss adds up. Gaps in knowledge accumulate fast — especially in reading, writing and maths.
- Confidence and friendships suffer. Regular absence makes it harder for children to feel settled, join in and build friendships.
- Headwinds to future success. Missing school isn't just a short-term problem: it blocks access to full potential both academically and socially.

What the law requires

It is a parent/carer's legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. Schools must record attendance and follow up on absences. If attendance falls below expectations and no action is taken, formal interventions can follow — including penalty notices.

What we ask of you

We understand that children will sometimes be genuinely too unwell to attend — in those cases please contact the school office promptly. But wherever possible:

- Arrange medical and dental appointments *outside* school hours.
- Holidays during term time cannot be authorised.

Let's act together for the best chance of success.

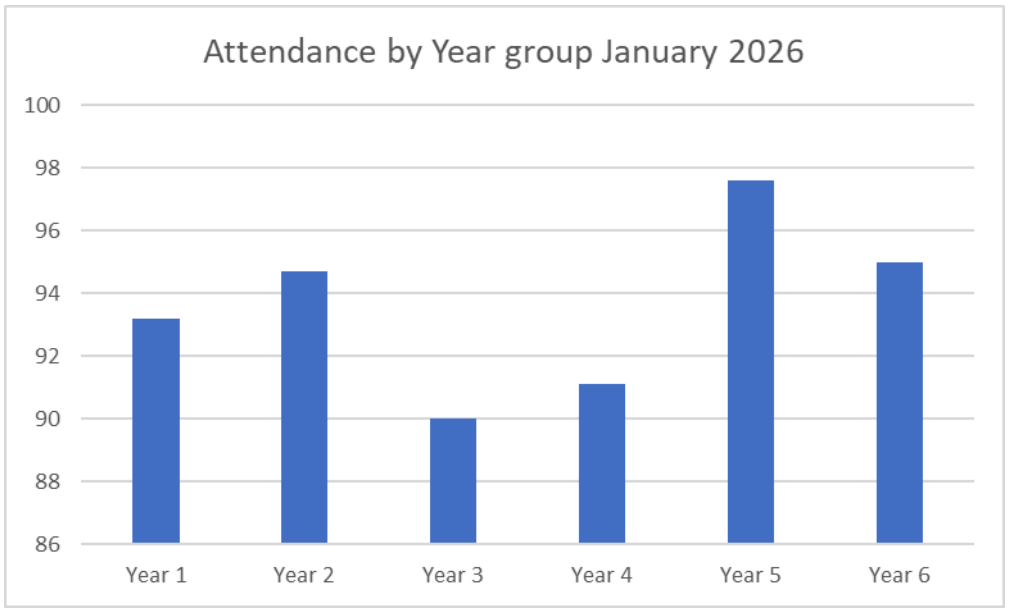
Please support your child by ensuring that they are in school every day and arrive on time. Every single school session matters.

Tom O'Donnell, Anisa Lucey and Vicki Hills









Sports Coach Update

During January, our PE lessons have had a clear focus across the school. In EYFS and Years 1 & 2, lessons have been based around developing fundamental movement skills: Agility, Balance and Coordination. Children take part in fun, engaging games designed to build these key skills.

In KS2, pupils have been learning how to play Dodgeball, with Year 5 also enjoying an additional Dance lesson. Dodgeball is one of the most popular lessons of the school year, helping children to improve their catching, throwing and agility, while also learning how to work together as a team and develop simple game strategies.

Year 5 have been learning Dance with the theme “Overcoming Fear” — for example, developing strategies to overcome worrying about what others might think or say, or being afraid of making mistakes. Through this, pupils are developing confidence and self-belief. We are hoping to showcase the Candy Line Dance they have been learning.

Our Football fixtures have got off to a strong start with a 1-1 draw and a 1-0 win.



All the best,

Mr Bennett

Dates for your Diary

Key dates	Event
February 2026	
Mon 2nd	9.15 School Mass
Weds 4th	9.15 EYFS open morning
Friday 13th	Home learning project gallery
Friday 13th	Break up
Mon 23rd	Children return to school
Mon 23rd	Year 4 swimming for the next 2 weeks
March 2026	
Thurs 5th	World book 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
Fri 20th	Red nose day
Tues 24th	10.30 St Giles Easter Service with the Donkey
Weds 25th	9.15 EYFS open morning
Friday 27th	2.00pm finish Break up for Easter

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 kicked off the new year with a bang and are delighted to welcome five new children into Nursery. They have settled in beautifully and are already having the best time!

Our topic this term is **All About Me**. In Nursery, we have enjoyed reading *So Much!* by Trish Cooke and *Who Are You?* by Smriti Halls. Following these stories, the children created self-portraits and family pictures. We talked about the similarities and differences between ourselves and others, including how we look, our eye colour, skin colour and hair, as well as the differences in our families, cultures and the clothes we wear. It has been wonderful to see the children sharing and celebrating what makes them unique.

In maths, the children have been learning to subitise to 3 and recognise numerals from 0–3. They have been counting actions such as jumping and clapping, using number fans to say how many times they heard a drum being hit, and counting everything they see and hear during their play.

The children have been busy practising writing their names, and you can continue to support this at home. You can also help by talking about family members and sharing photos together, encouraging your child to draw self-portraits, and practising counting in everyday situations such as climbing stairs, clapping hands, or counting toys and snacks.



X-ray hands



Name writing



Building and counting

Reception update

Reception class have been learning all about themselves this term. The children have had a great time exploring our new *St Luke's Hospital* role-play area. Who knew we had so many doctors and nurses across Nursery and Reception!

In Science, we have been learning about the different parts of our body. We have focused on the functions of our legs, arms, chest, hands, feet, eyes and nose. The children have taken part in a range of experiments to explore the importance of these different body parts.
In R.E., we have been talking about why Jesus is so special to Christians. We have been learning by listening to and retelling stories from the Bible. The stories we have listened to so far are *The Lost Sheep*, *Jesus as a Young Boy Lost in the Temple*, and *The Feeding of the 5,000*.

This term, Coach Bennett and Swoosh have continued to help the children build on their gross motor skills. The children have been learning to control their bodies with Coach Bennett and have been having fun expressing themselves with Swoosh.



Drama with Swoosh



Making X-rays



Measuring our arms, legs and chest

Year 1 update

Year 1 have had a great start to the new year! To round off last term's work on Mary Anning, we visited the Natural History Museum and saw *actual* fossils that she found as well as meeting Sophie the Stegosurus!! We also went to see the ENORMOUS whale skeleton!

In English, we've started our wonderful new book *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson, which has given us the opportunity to learn about different parts of the world. By the end of this term, we will have written a postcard from Bali! We're also continuing to work hard on learning our phonics and letter formation.

In Maths, our focus is on Place Value within 20 and making sure we know our number bonds to 10 really well.

In Art, we completed the ammonites we made last term by painting them gold - they look fantastic! We are now designing bug hotels and thinking about the things that would be best to make them with. In Science, we've also been looking at the properties of different materials and what materials different objects are made from.

Our Big Question in R.E. is 'What is it like to live as a Jewish person?' and we have begun to learn about the different objects like the Menorah, Star of David and Torah are important to Jewish people.







Our wonderful trip to the Natural History Museum!

Year 2 update

Year 2 has had a fantastic start to the new year. We have been learning all about the Great Fire of London!!

As detectives, we have been investigating when the fire was, how it happened, where it spread, why it was so disastrous and who are the important people involved.

In Maths, we have been learning about shape and symmetry. We have been playing with shapes, drawing shapes and developing our skills using rulers.

Our RE studies have been very exciting! Learning about the Jewish religion and all of the traditions, celebrations and festivals involved throughout the calendar. We were even lucky enough to try some of the food Jewish people eat during Rash Hashanah.

Maths – making shapes and exploring the line of symmetry.





English -re-enacting scenes from our text 'Toby and the Great Fire of London'.





Year 3 update

Year 3 have had a fantastic few weeks of learning. The children are enjoying exploring mountains and volcanoes in Geography and worked hard to develop their multiplication and division skills in Maths. In English, they completed their class text, Escape from Pompeii, and have begun to write their own adventure stories. They have also enjoyed learning about Judaism and took part in a practical food activity, where they made fruit kebabs.

The children were excellent during their class assembly, where they confidently shared their learning with parents and carers. Well done to all of Year 3 for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Year 3 also took part in an exciting educational visit to a STEAM fair, where they explored science, technology, engineering, arts and maths through a range of creative activities. These included coding animations, carrying out colourful chemistry experiments and designing musical light shows. The visit provided a valuable and engaging learning experience for all.





1. Taleen and Bradley making fruit kebabs. 2. Hayder and Angel acting out a scene from escape from Pompeii. 3.
2. Year 3 children investigating different ways of using oil pastels.

Year 4 update

Year 4 have had a fantastic and busy term packed with exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we've been practising our times tables to build speed and confidence, as well as learning how to tell the time accurately using both analogue and digital clocks.

In Art, the children got hands-on and creative by designing and building their own canopic jars out of clay, linking beautifully to our Ancient Egypt topic. In Science, we became real investigators, conducting experiments to explore and compare the melting points of different materials and recording our results carefully.

Our English lessons focused on using direct speech, helping pupils punctuate and present dialogue correctly. We also really enjoyed reading our class novel, *Flat Stanley: The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery*, which sparked great discussions and supported our writing.

To top it all off, we went on an epic trip to the Science Museum, where the children were brilliantly behaved and full of curiosity as they explored fascinating exhibits and brought their learning to life.







Year 5 update

Year 5 have been working extremely hard this term and showing great enthusiasm across the curriculum. Mathematical skills have been put to the test through solving a range of equations, with a strong focus on long multiplication and short division. Our Science lessons have been focused conducting exciting experiments to investigate transparency, magnetism, heat and electrical conductivity using a variety of materials. In Computing, the children have been exploring code and writing their own lines of code to give instructions and make their sprites dance. A brilliant effort all round!



Creating code





Science: Exploring thermal conductors and thermal insulators

Year 6 update

Year 6 have started their first Geography unit of learning this academic year. The focus is the United States of America. They have learnt what the difference is between physical & human geography and have identified a selection of USA states, rivers and mountain ranges on maps of the USA. The children have also learnt about the imaginary latitude and longitude lines and their relevance for locating places on Earth. They considered the 5 significant latitudes: the Equator; the Artic & Antarctic circles, the tropics of Cancer & Capricorn and what each indicates. In addition, the children learnt about the importance and location of the Prime Meridian - that it actually passes through London!

In R.E, children are learning about the beliefs and practices of Budhism. In English, children have written a speech narrative about the first time two characters meet, inspired by the book 'Street Child'.

Year 6 had the opportunity to attend the Islington Junior Citizenship Scheme at the Sobell Centre, where they learnt about personal safety, ranging from keeping safe from fires, travelling on public transport, basic first aid skills, amongst other key well-being concerns.









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