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

ST LUKE'S NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

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 move further into the new half term, I am delighted to share some key updates and highlights from across the school.

Back on November 10th we marked Anti-Bullying Week, centred on the national theme Power for Good. This theme was shaped by pupils and teachers across the country, who asked for a focus that empowers children to take positive action against bullying. It encourages every young person to use their voice, their kindness, and their actions to make a difference—to speak out, support others, and help build a world where kindness wins. This week, we welcomed the Discovery Team, who delivered three interactive workshops as part of our Discovery Days. These sessions explore respect, empathy, friendship, and online safety, giving pupils the confidence and tools they need to make positive choices and stand up for what is right. Through all of these activities, our aim is to empower every child to use their Power for Good—to speak out against unkindness, help others, and recognise that small, positive actions can make a big difference.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Parent Review Meetings this week, and a particular thank you to those who booked appointments through our Arbor app. We understand that adjusting to new digital systems takes time, and we appreciate your support and patience. If you were unable to attend for whatever reason, we strongly encourage you to book an appointment as your partnership is invaluable to your child's learning journey.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of our new Digital Leaders in Year 4 and 5, who recently attended training to prepare them for their roles. They will be helping to promote responsible use of technology and support digital learning across the school. Thank you to Ms Mendes for overseeing all of this.

Our programme of class sharing assemblies has also begun, and it has been wonderful to see pupils presenting their learning with such confidence and creativity. Thank you to Year 6 and Year 4 for kicking us off in style—

their assemblies set a fantastic example for the rest of the school, and we look forward to enjoying more classes sharing their work and achievements over the coming weeks.

Our new partnership with the Lyceum School continues to develop, and we were delighted that our Year 3 children recently enjoyed a STEAM morning hosted there. The pupils took part in hands-on, creative activities

designed to encourage curiosity and problem-solving. Thank you to Mr Randall and Mike Stanley, Headteacher at the Lyceum, for coordinating such an enriching experience for the children.

In addition to this, our Year 1 and 2 pupils recently attended a Multisport festival at Beacon High. They represented the school brilliantly, showing great teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the event. Congratulations to all the children who took part, and a big thank you to Vicki Hills, Hannah Knight and Carlton Bennett for coordinating and supporting this fantastic opportunity.

As we look ahead to the Christmas period, we would like to draw your attention to several events taking place, including the Key Stage 1 Nativity performances on Wednesday 10th December, our Christmas Fayre on 11th December and our Christmas Service at Wesley's Chapel on the 17th December. . We would be grateful for as many parent and carer helpers as possible, particularly with wrapping presents and preparing chocolate for the chocolate tombola. Please let the office know if you are able to support.

A final reminder that we are continuing to embed the Zones of Regulation framework throughout the school as part of our commitment to supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing. The Zones of Regulation help children recognise and label their emotions by placing them into four colour-coded zones. Through this approach, our pupils learn that all feelings are valid, but how they respond to those feelings is important. Staff are implementing the zones further during class check-ins, reflection times, restorative conversations, and transitions to help pupils develop a shared language around emotions and self-regulation. Children are being encouraged to identify strategies that can help them move between zones—for example, breathing exercises, taking a short movement break, seeking adult support, positive self-talk, or using calming spaces in the classroom. By practising these tools regularly, pupils learn how to understand their emotional state, communicate their needs, and choose helpful ways to manage difficult moments. Our aim is to empower children to become more independent in recognising their feelings and selecting strategies that help them return to a zone where they are ready to learn. To support families in using this language at home as well, we have created a Zones of Regulation parent help sheet. This is available to collect from the school office, and we hope it will be a useful guide for discussing emotions and self-regulation strategies with your child beyond school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Our school community thrives because of the strong partnership between staff, families, and pupils. We look forward to another inspiring and joyful few weeks ahead.

Warm regards,

Tom O'Donnell

Safeguarding Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are committed to ensuring that our school remains a safe, supportive and trusted environment for all pupils. We aim to provide an update to you in every Newsletter we issue.

Stronger focus on online safety and technology
We will continue to review our filtering and monitoring systems, and we'll keep you informed about how we teach children to stay safe online—both at school and at home. Our SENSO system alerts us to any information that a pupil searches that may cause harm.

Attendance as a safeguarding issue
Where persistent absence or unexplained non-attendance is linked to safeguarding concerns, schools *must* work with children's services—rather than simply "should". If your child is absent for repeated or unexplained reasons, we may contact you and, if needed, work with external agencies. Your cooperation in this is vital.

Terminology updates and inclusion
The language around SEND has been updated (for example changing "autism spectrum disorder" to "autism") and the guidance reflects evolving safeguarding contexts. We aim to ensure inclusive, up-to-date policies and practices that reflect all pupils' needs and sensitivities.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Monica Russell (Assistant Head, SENDCo and EYFS teacher)

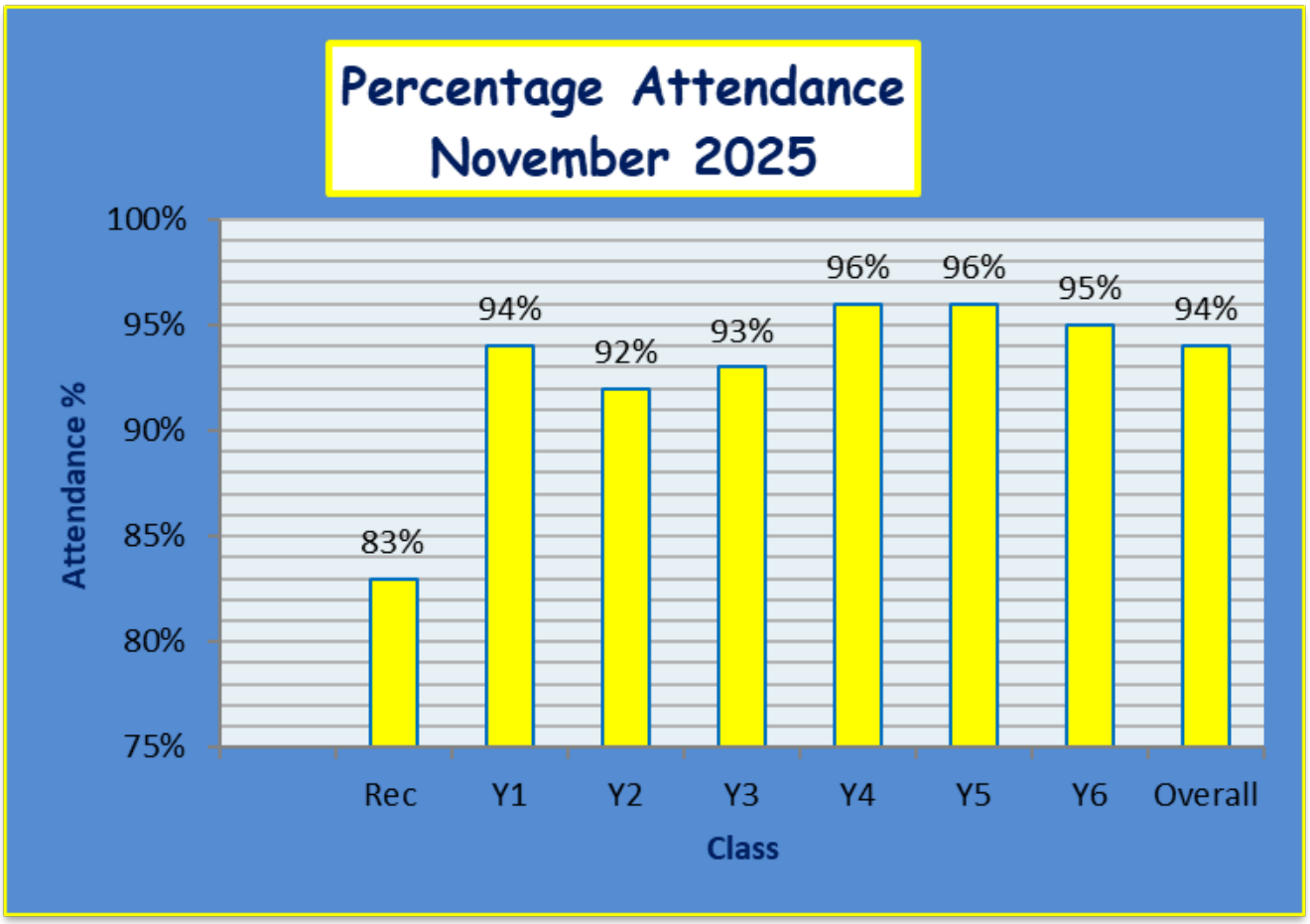


Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Tom O'Donnell, (Headteacher), Anisa Lucey, (Learning Mentor, Attendance and Welfare Officer) and Keith Grey, (Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum Lead and Year 6 teacher).









<u>Attendance matters. A lot.</u>

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 and Anisa Lucey




Sports Coach Update

This term has been another great success across our PE lessons. The children have been exploring gymnastics, learning to create short sequences that include a jump, balance and roll. Year 6 have also had the opportunity to develop their hockey skills during their second lesson of the term.

Gymnastics has been especially popular with our younger pupils, who have embraced the new challenges with enthusiasm. Our older children found some aspects more challenging, but they have shown fantastic perseverance and made excellent progress. Overall, it's been a positive and enjoyable term of learning for everyone.



Well done!
Mr Bennett

Environmental and Naturehood Update

We were excited to see our pond garden transformation when we came back to school after the half term.

The whole area has been uplifted for the benefit of wildlife and us. It's fantastic 🙂.

We give many thanks to the team from Clean Space for making our vision for this beautiful nature space a reality. By re-using, repositioning, repairing and restoring the boundary fencing, they were able to expand our pond garden 'oasis' as well as install two gates so that we can now access, explore and learn from our experiences within this green space. The team also built a new and larger pondside platform, made from non-slip bamboo decking, for safe viewing of the pond and aquatic life.

A group of Year 6 children recently helped to care for our pond. Using nets, they gently removed fallen leaves and floating duck weed from the pond surface. An inquisitive frog was in the pond observing them!! 🐸

The children were so happy to have this first-hand experience as they had not been in this space before 🙂.

We will continue to develop this garden with wildlife friendly planting, habitats for wildlife and an improved pond safety cover. Please go and take a look at the developments so far.

We also give thanks to Clockhouse Nursery, a plant nursery in Enfield, for donating daffodil bulbs, pots and compost. All children in EYFS and Year 4 planted up their very own pot of Daffodils to take home, care for and see grow. 🌼🌼🌼

Happy growing to you all.

Please remember that bulbs will produce flowers year after year so do not throw your pots/bulbs away after the flowers have died off.

Allow the leaves to die off naturally so that the bulbs have enough stored energy from photosynthesis to grow their flowers each spring.

Years 1 and 2 children enjoyed an afternoon planting tulip and daffodil bulbs in their 'Activity Garden' planters and the large circular planters in their playground. 🌷🌼🌷🌼

The children should be so proud of themselves. They carefully planted the bulbs at the correct depth and the right way up too!! We all look forward to watching the sleepy bulbs wake up over the next few months and seeing their beautiful blooms in late winter and spring.

The children are taking great care of their flowers and other plants they have planted in their outdoor play space. They love watering their plants when the soil is dry and have resisted picking the flowers as they know that the bees, butterflies and other insects need to collect their food (nectar and pollen) from the flowers .

They are all fantastic and are really enjoying their practical, nature-based activities!!

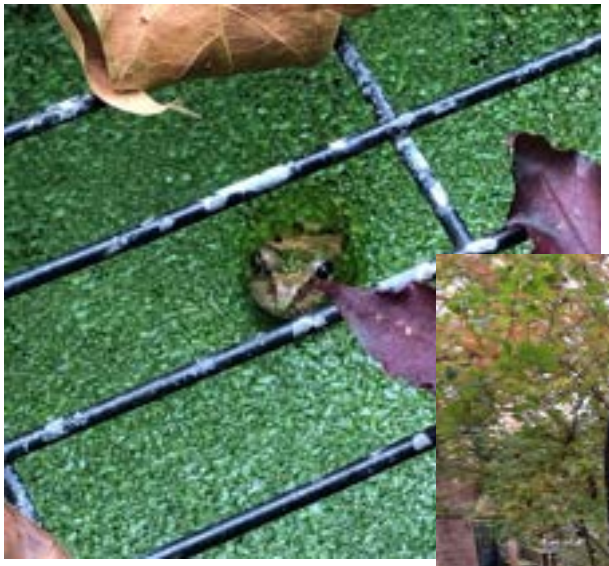
Thank you to the Year 6 children who recorded all the trees living across our school grounds so that they could be mapped on the National Education Nature Park's interactive map.

We will continue to participate in the biodiversity mapping activities provided by this programme and share our findings through the online map.



You can find out more about this programme via this link

https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/







Dates for your Diary

Key dates	Event
December 2025	
Tuesday 2nd	9.15am - Year 5 sharing assembly
Wednesday 3rd	9.00am Early Years stay and play Whole school Panto - Aladdin
Friday 5th	3.00pm - 4.00 pm - Y2 - Y6 Home learning gallery - ECO POD
Tuesday 10th	9.30am - morning Nativity 2.00pm - afternoon Nativity
Thursday 11th	Christmas dinner day + Christmas jumper day 3.45pm -4.45pm Christmas Fayre
Friday 12th	9:15am Christmas Singing Y3-6 Parents invited Mr Jones
Monday 15th	9.15am EYFS prizegiving
Tuesday 16th	9.15am Y1/Y2/Y3 Prizegiving
Wednesday 17th	Christmas Service at Wesley's Chapel AM
Thursday 18th	9.15am Y4,5,6 Prizegiving Class Parties (Own clothes)
Friday 19th	Games morning School finish at 2:00pm

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/grid/2024/10

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
- Maths Able & Talented (Year 5/6, selected) – Mrs Damolekun, Jill Nicholls, Stephen Barber
- 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

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

Nursery have had a fantastic month! We have loved exploring *Room on the Broom*, where the children made some brilliant broomsticks and magical wands. We also enjoyed reading *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The children used puppets to retell the story and particularly enjoyed joining in with the refrain, "FEE FI FO FUM…". They created wonderful beanstalks, which are now proudly displayed on our classroom "Proud Wall". In phonics, the children have been tuning into sounds in the environment — such as car horns, aeroplanes, dogs barking and trees rustling — and learning to identify and describe them. In maths, we have been building towers and using comparative language to talk about them, including words such as *bigger*, *taller*, *shorter*, *longer*, *smaller* and *biggest*.







Reception update

Reception Class have had a great Autumn 2 so far! We started off the half term with activities linked to fireworks to celebrate Bonfire Night. We've also planted Tulip bulbs with Sophia. Sophia taught us how to plant tulip bulbs with care and spoke about the different elements that plants need to grow. We can't wait to see the Tulips bloom in Spring! In Maths, we have been working on numbers to 5. We have been subitising, representing and composing numbers 4 and 5. Drawing Club has been a success in Reception class. Each week we have been working on different stories to inspire our work. We use tales and animation to spark creativity and encourage the love of writing. Drawing Club creates conversations, includes maths and develops mark making. This week we will be inspired by the book *The Squirrels Who Squabbled*. We're looking forward to the Drawing Club outcomes!



Drawing Club



Planting Tulips



Fireworks Art

Year 1 update

We have had a great few weeks in Year 1. We have been really enjoying our new English unit around the book: 'Stone Girl, Bone Girl' which is all about the life of Mary Anning. We have been loving finding out about her, dressing up, doing some drama role play and looking at fossils! In Art, we have been carefully drawing spirals, observing ammonites and drawing them. We also had a visit from Father Jack connected to our RE unit, to talk to us about how Christians care for the people God created. In Maths, we have been doing lots of addition and subtraction within 10, as well as solving and making up our own word problems.






Year 2 update

Year 2 has had a busy start to the term. We have been learning all things fairytales, reading many stories, identifying what makes a fairytale and studying the iconic characters. In history, we have been looking at medieval castles and I have been very impressed with the creativity with our castle designs.

In RE, we have focussed on Christmas traditions and rehearsing our Nativity Play. Students have been very excited learning all the songs!

Some students were fortunate enough to be selected by Mr Bennett to represent St Luke's at the Multi-Sports festival. This was a fantastic day, seeing students showcase their sport skills and teamwork.




Batting practice



Agility practice

Year 3 update





Year 3 have had a busy and exciting few weeks. In English, Reading and Geography, they have been learning all about Spain and using their new knowledge to write non-chronological reports. In Maths, they have been estimating and finding the closest multiples of 10 and 100, as well as practising column addition and subtraction. In computing, the children have begun exploring branching databases and sorting objects by their attributes.

We've also enjoyed a range of creative and personal development activities. The visit to The Lyceum School was a highlight, with games and a fun STEAM session. In science, the children have been learning about sun safety, and in PSHE they have focused on kindness and anti-bullying. We were also visited by Three Discovery, who helped the children create fantastic anti-bullying comic strips using iPads. In PE, the children have especially enjoyed using the climbing frame and developing their confidence and coordination. Our new art topic, inspired by Richard Howie's *School of Fish* sculpture, is already proving popular. We even spent some time outdoors refreshing the flower beds — and discovered a few potatoes along the way!

Year 4 update

Year 4 have been working incredibly hard this term. In Maths, we have been practising our times tables and deepening our understanding of multiplication and division facts. Our History lessons have taken us back to Ancient Egypt, where we have explored the vital role the River Nile played in the success of this remarkable civilisation. Linking to this, in Design & Technology we have begun planning how to build our own shaduf. In English, we have been learning to write effective 2A sentences and developing our skills in summarising short texts. In R.E., we are reflecting on the Christmas message of peace and discussing its relevance in the world today. Our trips to the Cinema and Pizza Express were also a huge success. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Cruz, who has recently joined our class.




Year 5 update

Year 5 have been working extremely hard this term! We enjoyed our first trip to the Young Actors theatre, where we explored creative ways of recreating freeze-frames whilst developing fantastic teamwork skills. In Literacy, we have been studying a range of William Shakespeare's plays, including Romeo and Juliet. The children have loved reading together and acting out parts of the play. In Maths, we have been strengthening our understanding of fractions, focusing particularly on equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting fractions. Science has been exciting, with hands-on experiments investigating gravity and air resistance- resulting in some interesting discoveries!

Acting out a day at summer camp.



Testing out the parachutes!



Year 6 update

Year 6 have written and published autobiographical accounts of the life of the late American computer Katherine Johnson. They included her main achievement of calculating the trajectories for the space capsule of John Glenn - the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth and land safely back on the planet. The Victorians is the learning theme for History this term; children visited the Ragged School in Mile End to experience and learn about the life of a typical poor London child at the time. They found it very interesting and were shocked at how strict Victorian teachers were. In R.E, children are exploring how Christmas is represented in advertising. The learning of fractions continues in maths, with the multiplication and division of them being the latest learning challenge.







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