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

ST LUKE'S NEWS

OCTOBER 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,

What a wonderful half term it has been at St Luke's! Our community has been busy learning, celebrating, and living out our school vision.

Firstly, I'd like to reflect back to some of our sporting highlights and I'd like to congratulate the Year 5 and 6 football team. On Monday 22nd September, they represented the school brilliantly and progressed to the Islington Final, which took place on Friday 26th September. They encountered some tricky fixtures in difficult weather conditions but as always with these types of experiences-there were moments for learning and reflection. I'd like to extend my thanks to Vicki Hills for organising these events.

Children in Years 3 and 4 have been taking part in Bikeability sessions this term, learning essential road safety skills and building confidence on their bikes. It has been wonderful to see how much progress they've made and how much they've enjoyed the experience.

Back on the 6th October we welcomed some of you for our harvest celebrations. Thank you for your generous donations. I would like to thank in particular the Lyceum school who we have forged a new and exciting partnership with for their generous offerings. All donations have gone to the St Luke's Community Centre.

Last week, we came together at St Clement's Church to celebrate St Luke's Day — a cherished tradition that holds a special place in the heart of our school community. The service was a beautiful occasion, filled with reflection, music, and gratitude. We are so thankful to our trustees, whose generous gifts continue to enrich our playground and create joyful spaces for our children to learn and play together.

We have also kickstarted our Student Council this term. The children held their first session last week, focusing on the themes of justice and responsibility. It was inspiring to see their thoughtful discussions and commitment to making a positive difference in our school as well as contributing to positive change in the world we share.

This week, our Year 6 pupils also took part in Head Boy and Head Girl elections. After presenting their manifestos, the children across the school voted in a democratic election. Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl **William and Savannah** and Deputy Head boy and Head Girl: **Alfie and Heba** They will be wonderful ambassadors for our school.

We now invite children in Years 4 and 5 to apply for the role of Digital Leaders. Ms Mendes will be leading this exciting initiative, helping pupils develop their digital skills and promote safe and creative technology use across the school.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host our Stay and Play session with our Early Years children and families. It was lovely to meet so many new faces and to welcome our youngest learners into the St Luke's family.

Yesterday's International Evening was another truly special moment. It was incredible to see our families, staff, and children come together to celebrate the rich diversity of our school community through music, dance, and delicious food. The atmosphere was full of joy and pride as we shared and celebrated our many cultures and languages. A huge thank you to everyone who brought food, dressed in traditional clothing, and helped to make the evening such a success.

Over the half term break, we are excited to begin some developments around our pond area, led by our Naturehood tutor, Sophia Ioannou. This space will become a fantastic outdoor learning environment, and we look forward to sharing updates as it progresses.

Finally, thank you to all the families who supported our home learning projects this term. Your engagement truly enriches the children's learning experiences and helps bring our curriculum to life.

Wishing you all a restful and happy half term break.



Warm regards,
Tom O'Donnell

Safeguarding Update

This month, we were delighted to welcome Stephen Fisher, an independent safeguarding consultant, to St Luke's to conduct a full safeguarding audit across the school. His visit included a review of our policies and procedures, observation of daily routines, and discussions with staff, governors, and pupils.

We are very proud to share that the report was extremely positive, confirming that safeguarding at St Luke's is effective and that our staff are deeply committed to keeping every child safe, happy, and well cared for.

Key highlights from the audit include:

- Safeguarding practice at St Luke's accurately reflects our strong policies and ethos.
- Staff have a clear understanding of how to identify and respond to concerns swiftly and appropriately.
- Children spoke confidently about how they are kept safe and who they can talk to if they are worried.
- The school environment is calm, secure, and nurturing, with excellent supervision across all areas.
- Governors are well informed and proactive in supporting the school's safeguarding work.
- Regular staff briefings, training, and use of the CPOMS system ensure consistent and effective record keeping.
- Positive relationships and behaviour policies promote a trauma-informed and inclusive culture.

Stephen Fisher concluded that *"the staff of St Luke's Primary School are clearly committed to and successful in keeping its children safe"* and that prompt, effective action is taken whenever additional help is needed. We are very proud of this feedback, which recognises the collective effort of our staff, governors, and families in maintaining a culture where every child feels safe and supported.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us to make St Luke's a place where our children can thrive.



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).

After-School Clubs and Enrichment at St Luke's

Our current enrichment and after-school offer is:

Monday

- 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.

Children/Family Support Worker

My role as a Child/family support worker is to support parents and children, i am planning to arrange a coffee morning for parents and carers after half-term on a Wednesday from 9.15- 10.30. My role involves working with children to support them in their school environment and support parents with issues around housing and parenting. If you have anything that you want to discuss with me. We will be planning to have speakers and different topics for the coffee mornings in the future.

Please feel welcome to speak to me. My working days are Monday 8.30-12 pm , Wednesday 8.30- 4.00 Friday 8.30-12pm.

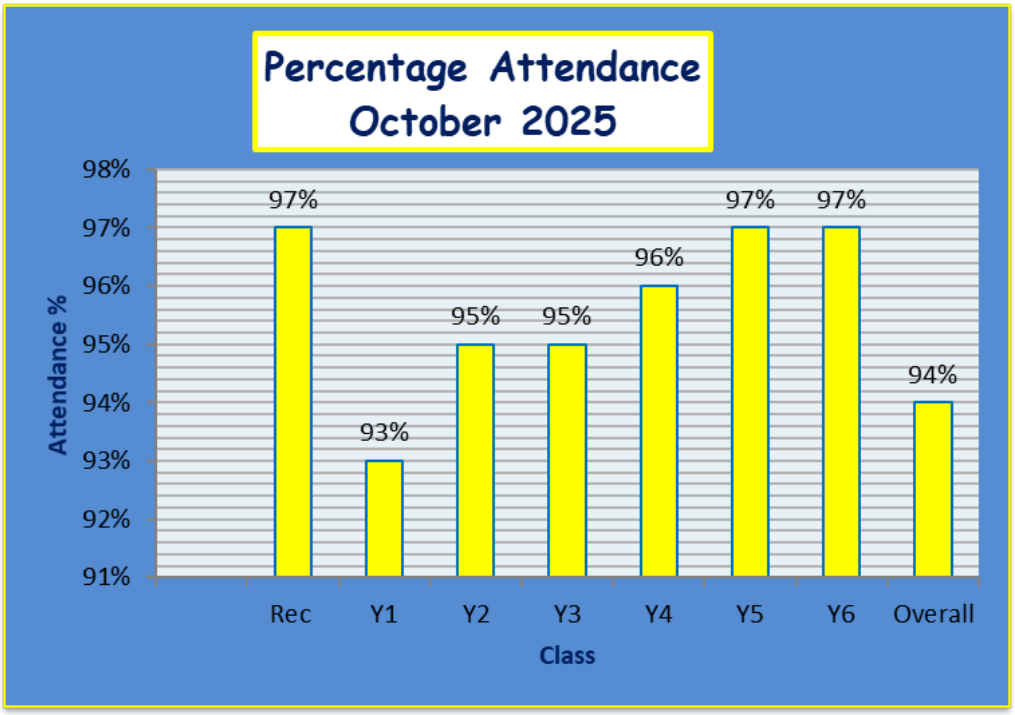
Attendance

Good school attendance is not just a legal requirement – it is vital for children's learning, progress and wellbeing.

We understand that children may sometimes be too unwell to attend school, and we ask that parents contact the office promptly in these cases. However, wherever possible, medical appointments should be arranged outside of school hours, and time off for holidays cannot be authorised during term time.

Together we can make sure every child has the best chance to thrive. Please support your child by ensuring they are in school every day and on time.

Our school target is 97% attendance



Well done to Rec, Y5 and Y6 for reaching our target this month!!



Environment and Naturehood Update

It's been positively busy outside in our school grounds and gardens this October 🙂. We are continuing to 'Green the Grey' across our school site by installing many planters, which will provide a home for a variety of edibles and wildlife friendly plants as well as attract more wildlife and much-needed pollinators 🌸🌺🌼🐞🐝🦋

All children in years 1 and 2 have helped to fill and plant up six new planters across their playground. A really enjoyable activity for all and the children were fantastic helpers. They now have a variety of fruit trees, herbs, garlic bulbs, onion sets, spring flowering bulbs and autumn/winter bedding plants to care for and watch grow 🍎🍏🌼🌷.

Children in years 5 and 6 as well as children in the after school club have helped to fill and plant up 7 new planters in the KS2 playground.

A small but beautiful raised garden where the children will be growing and caring for a variety of Global Food 🍎🍐.

Olive, apple and pear trees have been carefully planted by the children so far and are regularly watered by children at lunchtime and after school. Thank you everyone for your enthusiasm and care for plants.

We thank School Food Matters for providing us with a grant to purchase the planters and all the litres and litres and litres of compost needed to fill them all.

Early Years children are continuing to plant up their planters with a variety of spring flowering bulbs 🌹🌺🌼🌷. We look forward to seeing them all bloom in the spring time.

Children really enjoyed harvesting the organic, school-grown squash and delivering them to our chefs in the school kitchen this month. They were roasted and served to all the children who chose to eat them as part of their school dinner. We hope they tasted good and you enjoyed eating them everyone.

Years 3, 5 and 6 have taken part in the National Education Nature Park's 'Habitat Heroes' activity. All children have been outside to explore our school site, discover what places there are for wildlife and then map them on the interactive map 🐸🐛🕸️🦋🐞. We have registered to take part in this programme, delivered by the RHS and Natural History Museum, and will continue to map the biodiversity across our school grounds as well as all the 'Grey to Green' improvements we make during this academic year 🙂. Exciting 🙂.

Children have been enjoying the trees' spectacular displays of autumn colour and collecting some leaves to press. So vibrant and uplifting 🍂🍁🍂🍁.

If you are planning to grow spring-flowering bulbs such as Daffodils and Tulips at home, now is the time to plant the bulbs.

Happy planting 🙂.







Our St Luke's Day Service at St Clement's Church

Last Thursday, we all went up to St. Clement's Church for our annual celebration of St. Luke's Day. Lots of members of the St. Luke's Centre also attended which made our service even more special. Thank you to the wonderful Year 6 readers who took part.





Dates for your Diary

Key dates	Event
November 2025	
Tuesday 4th	Flu vaccination team in - 2nd visit
Tuesday 18th	9.15am - Year 6 sharing assembly
Wednesday 26th	9.15am - Year 4 sharing assembly
Wednesday 26th	Parents evening
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
Wednesday 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 to Y6 parents welcome
Monday 15th	9.15am EYFS prizegiving
Tuesday 16th	9.15am Y1/ Y2 / Y3 prizegiving
Wednesday 17th	Christmas service at Wesley's Chapel
Thursday 18th	9.15am Y4/ Y5/ Y6 prizegiving 2.00 class parties
Friday 19th	Games morning 2.00pm finish - break up for holiday

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

Class news

Nursery Update

It has been so lovely being back in the classroom with my wonderful Nursery class. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their kind and supportive words as I return to teaching after some time off due to bereavement — your thoughtfulness has meant a great deal. Our topic this term is "Into the Woods", and we've been reading a variety of woodland-themed stories, with a firm favourite being *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Inspired by the story, the children have created beautiful clay bowls, which they carefully painted once dry. They have also enjoyed experimenting with porridge oats — pouring, mixing, and sharing between bowls, just like the three bears! We've introduced the tricycles into the playground this term and have been teaching the children how to navigate the space safely, pedal independently and take turns kindly. We'll be sharing the children's learning on Tapestry, so if you're having any trouble logging in or have misplaced your login details, please come and see me so I can help you get connected again.





Reception Update

I'd like to congratulate all the Reception children on how beautifully they've settled into school life and embraced the start of their learning journey at St Luke's with confidence and curiosity. The children have loved exploring the story *The Gruffalo*. They've used puppets to retell the story and enjoyed acting it out in our woodland-themed role play corner. We've also introduced Drawing Club, where children listen to a story and then use their imagination to draw the characters, settings and adventures from what they've heard. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and storytelling shine through their artwork. The children have now begun their phonics lessons and are doing brilliantly! Please continue to support your child's reading at home by sharing the books we send home every Friday and remember to sign your child's reading record so we can see how often they're reading with you.





Year 1 update

We have had a great few weeks in Reception. We have been doing lots of phonics and reading and can see that everyone is really improving. We have also been enjoying doing a range of art and learning more about the season of autumn. We have also been loving using our outside space and developing it further! We now have some big planters and recently helped Sophia to plant bulbs and strawberry plants in them - they are looking amazing! We really enjoyed gardening and have been looking after the plants very carefully ever since.





Year 2 update

We have had some very big weeks in year 2. The students have loved all things sport with the athlete visit, our cricket time and tennis time! It has been wonderful seeing the children grow in their confidence and their skills. Our learning time has been full of curiosity, questioning and developing our comprehension of the Civil Rights Movement and learning of the Suffragette movement, with focus on Rosa Parks and Emily Davison. It has been wonderful to see their growth in their questioning and writing skills.

I was very pleased to hear upon my return from my leave that the students continued to grow in their learning and had a pleasant week.

Year 3 update

Year 3 have enjoyed a busy and rewarding few weeks! The children have shown great focus and enthusiasm across all subjects. In English, they explored the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, producing thoughtful historical recounts. In Maths, our work has focused on place value, addition, and subtraction. In Science, the children investigated friction through hands-on experiments, and in Computing, they developed their fantastic animation skills. We also took part in our first Environmental lesson outdoors, exploring different habitats-we had lots of fun! The children have continued to enjoy their Inspire Football and cricket sessions in PE, approaching each one with fantastic energy. In RE, we have been learning about the Incarnation and salvation, reflecting on their meaning and importance.




Year 4 update

This half term has been full of exciting learning and adventures in Year 4! We've been exploring the stories of the Windrush Generation and learning all about migration, as well as investigating electricity in our science lessons. In maths, we've launched Times Table Rock Stars to help everyone become super confident with their times tables! We've also continued our community work at the St Luke's Centre and even took part in a fun cooking class with Itsu, where we learned about healthy eating. To top it all off, we had an amazing trip to the Islington Boat Club, where we went kayaking and showed brilliant teamwork and courage on the water.






Year 5 update

The children have been having lots of fun with our learning. In Science, we explored the life cycles of animals and investigated parts of an egg- it was egg-cellent! In Maths, we have been learning about multiples and common multiples, and in Reading we have been using our inferring skills to become amazing reading detectives.
We also enjoyed the UCL Airpoll workshop, learning how to keep our air clean by using fewer cars and cycling more. In Art, we explored the work of Frieda Kahlo and how she celebrated her Mexican culture through her paintings. We were inspired to create our own portrait in her style.



The children explored their identities through colour, culture and their favourite things (colours, seasons, singers).. Inspired by the work of Frieda Kahlo.

Year 6 update

The children have been learning about NASA's female computer (mathematician) Katherine Johnson who was instrumental in the successful first manned return flight around earth. They have been using writing techniques to express how she might have been feeling at different times of her career. In maths, we have learnt long division and multiplication and explored how to apply this knowledge to word problems. We continued our understanding online safety by learning about how to identify 'click-bait' and scams. In our science lessons we have learnt about different microorganisms. We are currently investigating how moisture affects the rate of growth of mould on bread. As part of our RE learning, we visited St Giles church where Father Jack showed us how baptism takes place and its significance in a believer's life.




*Please note that useful documentation regarding our curriculum; documentation and slides shared at our 'Meet the teacher 'events and our half termly home learning project grids are also available here:
https://www.st-lukesislington.co.uk/class-pages/

REMINDERS

Reception applications 2024-2025

You can apply from 1 September 2025, **and you must apply by the deadline** - **15th January 2026**. We recommend you apply by 9th January 2026, just in case there are any problems with getting online or logging into the site.

- 16th April 2026: You'll get an offer by email in the evening.
- 30th April 2026: this is your deadline to accept (or turn down) your school place
- 22nd May 2026: You must send in any appeals by this date. You can appeal even if you've accepted the school place offered.
- Apply at: https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/

Online and Digital Safety update

Digital wellbeing is about how the internet and technology can make us feel. This includes recognising the impact being online can have on our emotions, mental health and well being, physical health and wellbeing.

Childnet has some tips and advice around this topic -

Digital wellbeing | Childnet

Internet Matters has a guide about talking to children about their online wellbeing -

How to create an environment for kids to talk

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 led by Miriam. Please do put them in touch with us.

Please collect an application form from the office or download one from our website.

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.

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