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

ST LUKE'S NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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

It has been a joy to welcome families back to St Luke's at the start of this academic year. The children have returned with enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into school life and re-established their routines. Together, we have worked hard to create a calm, purposeful, and supportive start to the term.

The beginning of the year has been marked by some brilliant events. Our *Good Samaritan Dance Workshop* gave pupils the chance to explore our vision in creative ways, practising compassion, respect, and responsibility through dance and reflection. Alongside this, new initiatives such as the *Tuesday Morning Run* have promoted wellbeing, resilience, and readiness to learn, helping our children to flourish physically as well as academically

Our worship this term has been rooted in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and our school vision. Through collective worship and class reflections, we have begun to explore deeply theological themes: *Who is our neighbour?*, *Christ-like love*, *compassion*, *mercy*, and *kindness*. These themes are not only shaping our worship but also guiding the way we live out our L.I.F.E. principles — to Love, Include, Flourish, and Empower — each day.

We are also delighted to share that we recently welcomed an external RE learning review. The findings were very positive, recognising the strength of our RE provision, the theological depth of pupils' discussions, and the way our vision is being lived out across the school. This feedback gives us confidence and encouragement as we look ahead to our upcoming SIAMS inspection.

The year has begun with a strong sense of belonging, purpose, and joy at St Luke's.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership — together we continue to ensure that every child can thrive.

With best wishes,
Tom O'Donnell

Safeguarding Update

At St Luke's, safeguarding is our highest priority. Everything we do is rooted in ensuring that children are safe, happy, and able to achieve their very best outcomes. As we begin the school year, I want to remind all families of our safeguarding structures and the steps we take to keep every child safe.

Across our school we display photos of our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and our team of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) displayed. These are also included below. Jenny Phillips (Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Lead) is also a Designated Safeguarding Lead but is unfortunately unwell and not available to the school currently. Each member of this team is trained, knows their role clearly, and is ready to support children and families whenever a concern arises. Please familiarise yourself with these staff members so you know who to approach if you ever need to raise a concern.

We also have rigorous systems in place to monitor, record, and respond to any safeguarding issues, ensuring we act swiftly and effectively. As part of this, we will be taking part in a Safeguarding Audit on 8th October. This external review will help us reflect on our practice, celebrate what we do well, and further strengthen our provision as we prepare for the year ahead.

Safeguarding at St Luke's is a shared responsibility between staff, families, governors, and children themselves. By working together, we create the safe, nurturing environment where pupils can Love, Include, Flourish, and Empower.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping every child safe.



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

We have been working really hard to strengthen and expand our clubs offer in school, ensuring children have access to a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills and interests.

Our current enrichment and after-school offer is:

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
  Enrichment and After School Off…

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.

Please note: in line with safer recruitment guidance, any adult working with our children will be required to undergo a full DBS vetting process and provide references.

Attendance

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

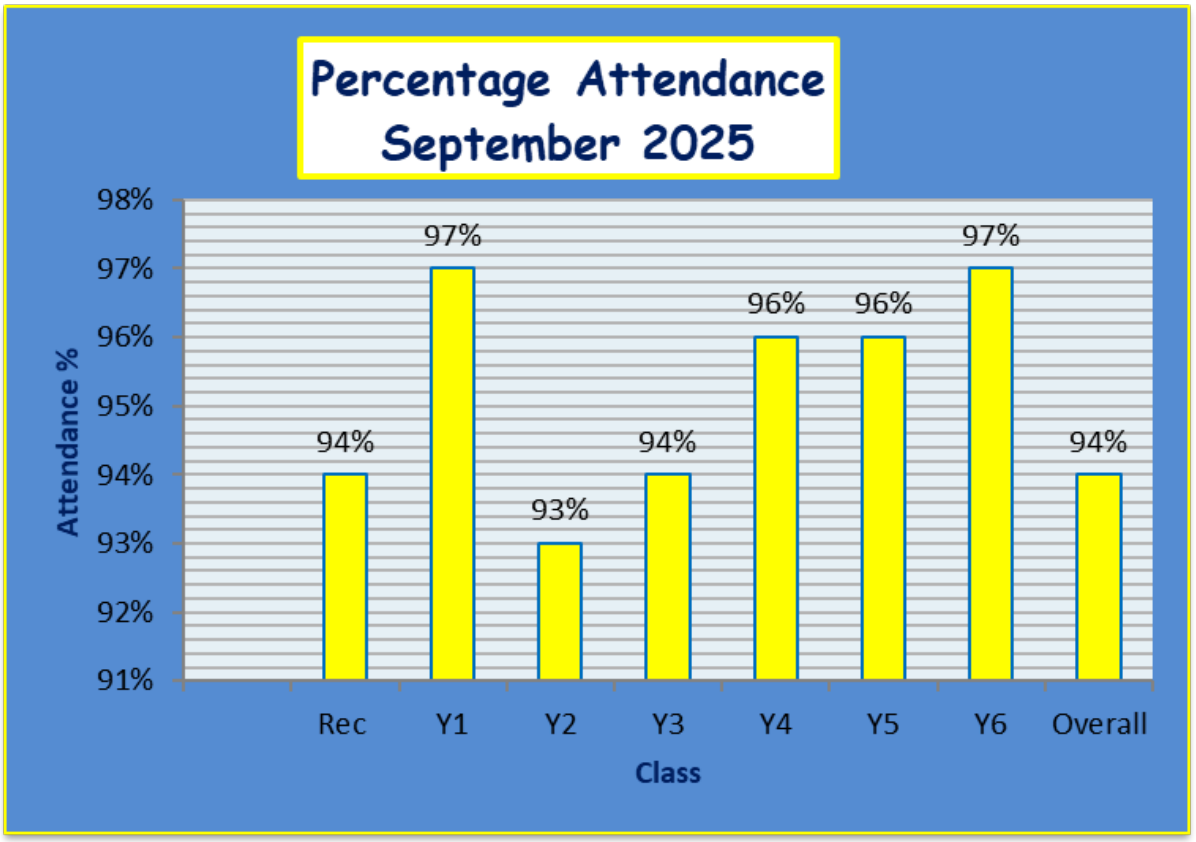
The law states that parents and carers must ensure their child attends school regularly. Schools are required to record attendance and follow up on absences. If attendance falls below expectations and concerns are not addressed, this can result in formal action, including penalty notices.

Why attendance matters:

- Children who miss school regularly find it harder to keep up with their learning. Gaps in knowledge can quickly build up, particularly in core subjects like reading, writing and maths.
- Good attendance supports children's confidence and friendships. Poor attendance can affect social development and make it harder for children to feel settled.
- Research shows a clear link: the lower a child's attendance, the lower their chances of achieving their potential at school.

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.



Environment and Naturehood Update

Happy Autumn to you all 🍂🍁🍂

It has been a mild start to autumn so far 🙂. Tomato plants are still bearing fruits, sweetcorn and gourds (squash and pumpkins) are ripening and summer flowering plants are continuing to bloom.

We give thanks for a great harvest this year. Many children have picked fruits and vegetables from our food growing spaces to wash and eat straight from the mother plant and/or to take home to prepare, cook, eat and enjoy with family. The children absolutely love harvesting food from the variety of edibles growing across our school grounds and a whole wealth of knowledge is gained about where, how and when food grows from these positively happy experiences.
Children have picked currants, strawberries, radishes, runner beans, carrots and tomatoes as well as a variety of fresh and fragrant herbs from several herb growing beds and borders.
Digging the earth and finding potatoes is always a magical, exciting and thoroughly enjoyable experience for the children. Early Years children dug up a fantastic crop of new potatoes in the summer term 🙂.

We have had fun-filled, nature-themed class workshops this autumn so far. It's bulb planting time so the children are planting an array of bulbs across our school grounds which will bloom in spring, including daffodils, tulips, bluebells, alliums and more.

Thank you to the Expedia volunteers who came in this month to help us with our Environment Project.

The team worked tirelessly and managed to assemble over 15 raised beds which will be used for growing an array of fruits, veg and flowers across the school grounds 🙂.

Not only do the corporate volunteers complete many, many outdoor jobs that need doing across the site, they also donate funds towards resources, materials and tools needed for our Environment Project.
Thank you for the small gardening gloves, Expedia 🙂.

Thank you to all the children who water the plants at lunchtimes and during after school club. It's with your help that the plants are able to get the water they need to flourish 💦🌱🌻

Exciting News

We are thrilled to be able to share some more information about our upcoming Great Athletes event. We are excited to announce that the athlete who will be visiting us will be Saffron Severn!

On the event day, all pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit run by their athlete, a terrific way to get all children excited about sport and realise that getting moving is really fun!
Their athlete will then share their incredible sporting journey, a story of resilience and determination in a fun and interactive assembly. There will also be an opportunity to ask any burning questions in a Q&A session with their inspiring role-model at the end!
Fundraising for the event will begin next week when the children will be bringing home a sponsorship form. The money raised for the event will help us to purchase new sports equipment and improve levels of physical activity in our school!

Dates for your Diary

Key dates	Event
October 2025	
Mon 6th	Harvest assembly?
Thursday 16th	St Luke's Day - St Clements
Wednesday 22nd	9.00am Early years stay and play
Thursday 23rd	4:30pm-6:00pm International Evening
Friday 24th	9:15am Site Security Update-Parent meeting (Hall) 3:00pm Home Learning Project Gallery (Ecopod)
November 2025	
Tuesday 18th	9.15am - Year 6 sharing assembly
Tuesday 25th	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
Tuesday 10th	9.30am - morning Nativity 2.00pm - afternoon Nativity
Wednesday 11th	Christmas dinner day + Christmas jumper day 3.45pm -4.45pm Christmas Fayre

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 and Reception update

At the start of the academic year, we welcomed new children to our St Luke's family. We are so pleased with how well they've all settled in! Nursery and Reception have been working closely together to create a shared, nurturing learning environment. The children are enjoying the collaborative learning experiences. Our topic for the term is *Into the Woods*. We've brought this topic to life through drama workshops with Artis and engaging music lessons with Mr Jones. Sophia, our resident gardener, has been planting tulip bulbs with the children. We can't wait to see them bloom next spring! She also harvested the carrots that the children planted last year. The planting and harvesting link nicely to our R.E. topic and our Science topic. We are talking about *Creation*, with a focus on living things. Reception class children have been learning to classify living and non-living things and Nursery class have been looking closely at themselves and their unique characteristics.



The carrots that Sophia harvested with the children

Year 1 update

We have had a lovely start to our school year in Year 1! We have been getting used to being in our new classroom and some different routines. We have been continuing to do lots of learning, as well as play based activities both inside and outside. Our new class book is: 'Anancy and Mr DryBone' which we have been enjoying. We have been learning to retell the story using a makaton/Talk for Writing style. We also enjoyed making each other laugh like the characters in the book did! In Maths, we are learning about place value within 10 including 1 more and 1 less. In Geography, the children have loved learning the continent song and the names and positions of each of the continents in the world. In RE, we have begun to look at the Creation story and how we are stewards of our world.
You will have noticed a change to our playground in front of the Year 1 classroom which we are very excited about! We are making the area into a more usable space and you will notice the addition of lots of planters and plants in the coming weeks too.



Year 1 sequencing the Creation Story in RE.

Year 2 update

We have had a great start to the academic year. Students have transitioned well and we have already experienced lots of learning.

In English, we have been understanding the civil rights movement, with focus on Rosa Parks. We have seen students progress their knowledge and understanding of Rosa Parks through developing more complex sentences and discussions.

In science, we have been exploring living things and understanding the natural world. Students have been very excited about this as we are constantly talking about animals and plants and natural habitats. We even explored the microhabitats we have in school!

Students have been loving the PE and sport opportunities we have on offer at school. Mr Bennett's PE class on a Tuesday morning is always an exciting time, along with cricket on a Thursday afternoon. It has been a joy watching their skills develop both inside and outside the classroom.



Year 2 dance Samaritan workshop

Year 3 update

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the term. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and hard work have been lovely to see.

In English, the children have been exploring the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, showing thoughtful insight and maturity when discussing key events and themes. This learning has been supported by their work in Geography, where we have been studying South Africa.

In Maths, they've been developing their understanding of place value, laying strong foundations for the year ahead. The children also had a memorable experience when visitors taught the story of the Good Samaritan through dance—an interactive and meaningful session they thoroughly enjoyed.

We also launched the Country Trust Food Discovery Programme, where the children had the opportunity to try new fruits and begin thinking about where food comes from. Their curiosity and willingness to try something new were fantastic to see.

PE has been a real highlight, with the children participating enthusiastically in our Inspire Football sessions and enjoying cricket lessons with Coach Jay, focusing on running and catching skills. Alongside this, their Physical Education sessions with Mr Bennett have been a great success. These sessions give the children a chance to be active outdoors, developing movement skills, teamwork, and confidence in a fun and energetic way.



Year 3 enjoying an Ipad lesson

Year 4 update

Year 4 have settled in really well this term and it has been so much fun exploring our new topics! We have loved learning about electricity in science and discovering the stories of the Windrush generation in history and geography. In DT, we had a fantastic time making our own night lights and seeing our designs come to life. The children have shown such curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm — it's been wonderful to watch them enjoy their learning!We are also incredibly proud of how our St Luke's Centre project is going. The children have been working hard, sharing ideas, and showing amazing teamwork. It's so exciting to see their projects taking shape and making a real difference in our school community!

Year 5 update

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the year! In Literacy, the children have explored the features of persuasive texts and are now writing their own letters. In History, the children have learnt about the triangular trade. In Maths they have been focusing on their timestables, place value, rounding and even Roman numerals to a thousand! Science lessons have been all about Living Things and their Habitats,
with a particular focus on plants. The children planted their own cuttings and are now observing how they grow. In RE, the children have explored Jesus' miracles, exploring what these tell us about Jesus.



Year 5, Tommy and Nadia with their plant cutting

Year 6 update

All children have settled in well to Year 6 and are ready for the responsibilities and challenges that the year ahead will bring. They are learning about the features of persuasive texts in readiness for writing their Headboy and Headgirl speeches. In History, children are learning about the first Black Britons who lived during the Roman and Tudor times. They have also explored the contributions that people from the Caribbean and Africa made fighting alongside British men and women during the first and Second World Wars. Digital Literacy has focused on the online code of conduct, usage and safety. Place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication facts have been key learning in Maths. In their Science lessons, children have been learning about the characteristics of living things and how they are classified. In RE, they have been learning about baptism and confirmation as significant parts of the Christian's journey through life.



Year 6 Debate team at their debate training session at Hogan Lovells

*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

Online and Digital Safety update

Welcome back to the new academic year.

Online safety remains a crucial priority for us all, and protecting our children in the digital world is essential. Some tips and advice to support children to adopt healthy digital habits -

https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/create-a-balanced-screen-time-with-a-good-digital-diet/full-view.html

Here is a link to a helpful parent guide covering a range of topics to help keep your child safe online -

https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Discovering-digital-at-primary-back-to-school-August-2025.pdf

Further information on Online Safety is also available on our website here:
https://www.st-lukesislington.co.uk/online-safety/

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.

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.

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

Mulberry
Academy Shoreditch

SATURDAY OPEN MORNING
SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025



COME AND VISIT
PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Come and meet with the Headteacher and senior team

Watch our amazing musical presentation

Refreshments will be provided

Delivering academic excellence and providing unrivalled experiences for students aged 11-18 years
in a caring, supportive and nurturing environment

OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 4PM-6PM

+ FOUR WEEKS OF OPEN MORNINGS

Mon 15th to Wed 17th September
Mon 22nd to Wed 24th September
Mon 29th September to Wed 1st October
Mon 6th to Wed 8th October
Please arrive by 9.15am

Saturday 11th October
9.00.am-11.00am

WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU

What we offer

- An excellent education experience filled with academic rigour and high standards
- A fantastic House system where students enjoy a wide variety of regular, fun and exciting events each half-term
- Quality enrichment provision that helps students to secure top university destinations, apprenticeships and employment
- Sixth Form Scholarships with up to £500 awards

For more information about our transition arrangements visit:
www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org/year-6-transition/

www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org

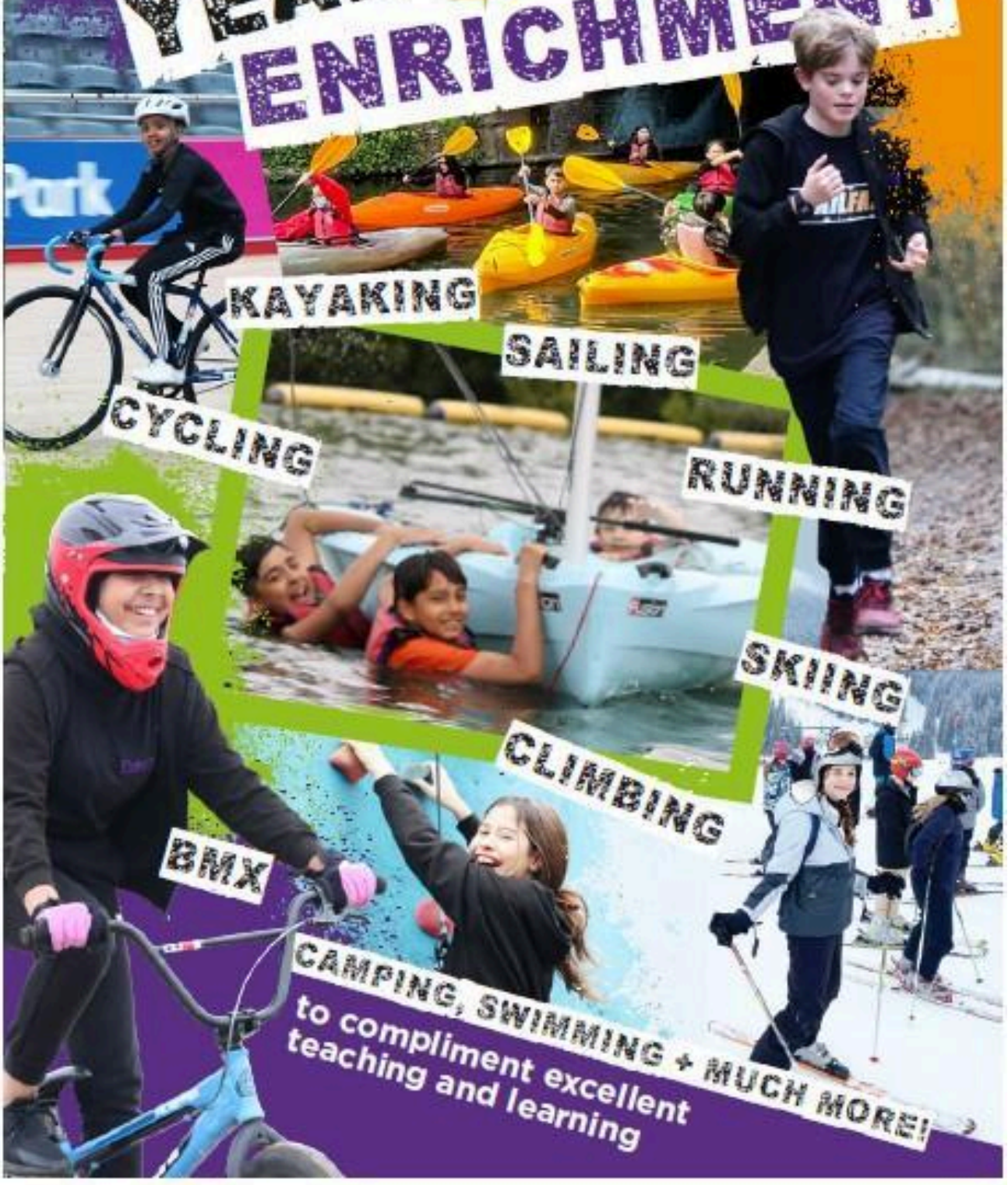
Mulberry Academy Shoreditch . Gosset Street . London E2 6NW
020 7920 7900 parents@mulberryacademyshoreditch.org
@MulberryAS | Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

Part of the Mulberry Schools Trust

Mulberry
Academy Shoreditch

A program of exciting new experiences, trips and lots of fun!

YEAR 7 ENRICHMENT



KAYAKING

SAILING

CYCLING

RUNNING

SKIING

CLIMBING

BMX

CAMPING, SWIMMING + MUCH MORE!

to compliment excellent teaching and learning



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