

Newsletter January 2022



Helping Lights Shine For All

Trip Costs: We are really excited that we are once again able to offer school trips and workshops to link with our curriculum. We want to give children as many experiences as possible and aim to have an enrichment activity each term. Like all schools however, we do rely on parents contributing towards these opportunities in order for them to go ahead. The school makes no profit at all on any trips, in fact we do subsidise the cost of coaches considerably. This year already we have had to top up contributions by almost £300, which is not sustainable. We would hate for children not to be able to have these additional enrichment opportunities so please do get in touch with us if you need support with payments.

We are thrilled that Bee Active will be offering provision at St Luke's in Feb Half term. Contact them to book a space.



NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK 31st January – 7th February 2022

We are looking forward to marking National Storytelling Week at St Luke's this year, which will coincide with the official opening of our library. Stories teach us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy, they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills. We know from research that children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to read above the level expected for their age as those who don't enjoy reading.

What's more, reading can also support children and young people's wellbeing. We found that reading, writing and listening to audiobooks during lockdown has supported children's mental wellbeing.

It's never been a more important time to celebrate the magic of stories and encourage children to read for fun. As part of our celebration, we have been lucky enough to book an **Author Illustrator Liz Millions**, who will work with each of our classes on 7th February. This will be paid for by the school.

We will also be completing a **sponsored read challenge** where we are asking children to complete a book bingo. This will be sent home closer to the time along with a sponsor form. School will get to keep 100% of the sponsorship money for books from Usborne, which will go into our new library for the benefit of all of our children. We really appreciate your support with this and we know this will be a fantastic opportunity for the children.

We are also challenging our community to read as many minutes as possible with the aim of collectively reading **10,000 minutes over the 5 days**. We will be keeping a daily total, which I will add to the Dojo school story. In school we are aiming to read for at least 30 minutes per day, but we would like you to record minutes read each night in your child's reading diary.

We would also love to give our children the chance to become storytellers! If your child enjoys storytelling and likes a bit of time in front of the camera, then please do **record stories and send them in for us** to see via your child's class dojo page. It could be a really fun thing to do at home, while also practising reading and learning storytelling skills. We'd love to then share some of the best with the school community and celebrate the storytelling skills we have in our school!

Covid changes:

As of Tuesday 11th rules on testing for Covid 19 have changed. We politely ask that you let us know of any cases within your household bubble. Please see below for updated information.

REGULARLY TAKE A LATERAL FLOW TEST IF YOU DO NOT HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS		IF YOU GET A POSITIVE RESULT SELF-ISOLATE BUT DO NOT TAKE A PCR FOLLOW-UP	
YOU CAN LEAVE SELF-ISOLATION AFTER 7 DAYS	IF YOU RECEIVE NEGATIVE LATERAL FLOW TEST RESULTS ON DAYS 6 AND 7	IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS TAKE A PCR TEST AND SELF-ISOLATE IMMEDIATELY	

A Child's Prayer of Thanks

Dear God,
I'm thankful
For all You give:
For food,
For love,
A place to live.
I thank you
for my family too
And I want you to know
that I love you.
Amen.

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