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NEWSLETTER

No. 5 March 2018

Dear Parents,

We are already coming to the end of the Spring term and looking forward to the Summer term. May I remind you, as hopefully the weather will be warming up, to send your child to school with a named water bottle and also a summer cap. Just a reminder that whole class photos will be taken tomorrow Friday 23rd March 2018 during the school day. Please ensure your children are wearing correct school uniform and looking smart! Please remember that we break up for the Easter break next Thursday 29th March. **School will close at 2pm.** Children return to school on Tuesday 17th April 2018. Have a lovely Easter break.

Royal Albert Hall



Well done to all the children who performed recently at the Royal Albert Hall, it was a very successful event. I was very proud of all of the children, with the way they sang and performed and also their behaviour. A big thank you to Mrs Tarr who gave up her Sunday and Mother's Day to accompany the children with me and also to Nicky Footer from the music service for all her hard work preparing the children for the day.

Playground Works

We have been very lucky to have secured funding to install a tarmac multi-use games area on our existing field. These works will commence on Monday 26th March 2018 and take approximately 5 weeks to complete. As always, when we have had any building works take place, this will be completed with minimum disruption to the children's learning. The area will be fenced off and would ask parents to take extra care when they are on the school site during this period.

Staffing News

This term we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Andreas (Reception Teacher) and also to Miss Jenkins (Play Leader). We also say a farewell to Mrs Mead who has decided not to return to work at Samuel Lucas following her maternity leave. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

Walk to School Week



The school has again registered for Walk to School Week which starts on 21st May 2018. We would like to encourage our parents and children to be active and use this opportunity to walk to school. May I remind parents not to park outside the school gates or use this area as a drop off or pick up zone. Please remind any relatives or friends who may also pick up your children about this. There are still some parking permits left to use the car park above Waitrose during term time. Please ask at the school office for a permit form. If you are dropping children at Play Aloud in the mornings please DO NOT park in the disabled parking bay unless you are displaying a blue badge which entitles you to park here. We do have parents who need to use this space and it is often used by Play Aloud parents as a quick drop zone.

Packed Lunches

Just a reminder parents, please provide your children with a healthy packed lunch. Please be aware that there are children in school who have nut allergies. There have been occasions whereby unspecified solid chocolate items with possible nut traces have appeared in lunch boxes. Items with chocolate as an ingredient may be brought in, however please do not send in any solid chocolate items or anything that contains nuts or possible nut traces.



World Autism Awareness Week

World Autism Awareness Week is from 26 March - 2 April this year. We will be doing what we can to raise awareness and understanding in school by using age appropriate activities suggested by the National Autistic Society (NAS). The NAS transforms lives, challenges perceptions and aims to build a society that works for autistic people. Please visit: <http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week.aspx> for more information or to help with fundraising.

Diary Dates

Date	Class	Event	Time
Friday 23 rd March	ALL	Class Group Photos	During school day
Friday 23 rd March	Year 4	Class Outcome	9.15am – 10.30am
Friday 23 rd March	Year 2	Class Outcome	1.45pm – 3pm
Monday 26 th March	ALL WELCOME	SLPA Meeting	8pm – venue tbc
Wednesday 28 th March	Reception	Class Outcome	1.45pm – 2.15pm or 2.30pm – 3pm
Thursday 29 th March	ALL	TERMS ENDS	2pm
Thursday 29 th March	ALL	SLPA Easter Egg Hunt	2pm
Wednesday 25 th April	ALL WELCOME	SLPA Meeting	8pm – venue tbc
Monday 30 th April	Year 4	Kingswood Residential Journey	
Tuesday 1 st May	Year 1	Farm Trip	During school day

EYFS

There is an exciting change occurring in the Early Years outside area! We are very proud of our Early Years Foundation Stage but are always striving to improve things and for those of you who are eagle eyed you would have seen the transformation that took place last Summer with the installation of the fake grass. This has provided the children with an all year, easily accessible environment for exploration, learning and play. Further enhancements included natural log seating, a climbing wall, balance beams and an improved bug hotel.



Since the start of this academic year we have been observing and listening to the children in the environment. As a result we have made the following enhancements:

- Maths, Literacy and Story Telling sheds
- Storage that enables the play equipment to be totally accessible by the children
- Improved, clearer labelling which is enabling all children to tidy up, not just a few!
- A digging pit, improved herb beds and a re-sited mud kitchen

There is still more to do however but at this stage we would love to hear your views on what you see.

What do you think? Is there something we could add/improve upon? What do your children think about the outside areas? (They do not have to be in Reception to have an opinion!) Have your children benefitted from the improvements? Do you hear about it from them?

If you have something that you would like to say specifically about our Early Years outside area then we would love to hear it! Please could you send any comments into school through the school office, either hand written or via email admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk for the attention of Mrs Elliott, Lilac class? All responses to be in by Friday 23rd April please.

SLPA News

Quiz Night - We hosted our annual adults **Quiz Night** on **Friday 9th March**. It was a sell-out once again and included lots of rounds of fun topical questions, a fish and chip supper and a licensed bar. The quizmasters Vicki Bean and Dominic Roberts did a fantastic job of compiling and delivering the questions - a massive **THANK YOU** to them both for all of their hard work to make the event such a success. The winning team went home with 6 bottles of wine and a winner's trophy. The event raised £750 for the school - a big thank you to everyone involved in organising and attending the event - it was a lot of fun and we are looking forward to doing it again in 2019!

Easter Egg Hunt - Please note this is an optional event and we do not need to know in advance who will be taking part - a laminated egg is hidden for every child at school.

We are in the process of organising the annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. This will take place on **Thursday 29th March at 2pm after school**.

When children have been collected if they wish to take part in the egg hunt then they can search the playground for a small laminated egg with their name on it. When they find their egg, they go to an Egg Station in the playground and swap it and also pay £1 for some Easter treats.

Younger siblings can join in the fun too as the Easter Bunny will also be hiding some blank eggs for them to find, swap and pay £1 for Easter treats.

We have contacted **Play Aloud** and children who are attending on Thursday after school will be included, so if your child will be attending Play Aloud and they want to take part please ensure you send in £1 for them.

Allergies / Vegetarians

If your child has an allergy or is vegetarian or is unable to have the sweets that we provide and would like to take part, please let us know by **Friday 23rd March**, so that we can ensure we have the correct separate sweet bags ready. Email us at enquiries.slpa@gmail.com.

So Where Are The Eggs Hidden?

To give your child an idea of where to search, the laminated eggs will be hidden as follows:

Reception eggs will be hidden in the EYFS play area.

Year 1 eggs will be hidden in the lower playground area.

Year 2 and Year 3 eggs will be hidden in the top playground area.

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 eggs will be hidden in the middle playground area.

Play Aloud children's laminated eggs will be hidden in a separate area.



Website:

Our SLPA page on the school website is now updated with blogs regarding our events so please do have a look and read what we have been up to... to access just click on the following link: <http://sam-lucas.herts.sch.uk/our-community/slpa-blog/>

Meetings:

Our next meeting is on Monday 26th March at 8pm and will be held at school. If you would like to know more about us or want to join us please come along, we always welcome new members.

If you do have any feedback for us or want to know any information about us you can contact us on the following email address: enquiries.slpa@gmail.com.

Many thanks
The SLPA

Yours sincerely

Tracy Thomas

Tracy Thomas
Headteacher

