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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas



NEWSLETTER

No. 4 December 2019



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks, many of you have been in to school to visit, either at a class outcome or a Christmas performance or at the Christmas Fayre. It has been lovely to see school so busy. Just a reminder that school finishes at 2pm today and the children return to school on Monday 6th January. From everyone at Samuel Lucas we wish you all a happy and safe winter break.

Staffing Update

This week we said a very fond farewell to Miss Green who has worked at Samuel Lucas for over 13 years. We will miss her and I am sure you join me in wishing Miss Green all the best for the future. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Shepherd following her maternity leave. Miss Shepherd will be teaching in Larch class.

School Website

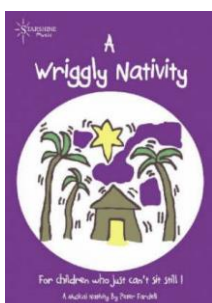
The school website can be found at

www.samlucas.herts.sch.uk

Here you can see all the diary dates for the year, class blogs and lots of information including curriculum overview and also statutory policies for your perusal. You can sign up to your class blog and receive notification whenever there is a new blog to read.

Class Outcomes

I hope you all enjoyed visiting the classrooms and finding out more about our skills based curriculum. Thank you for all your positive feedback. It was lovely walking around the school and hearing the children talking confidently about their learning and seeing them so proud to show you what they have learnt. Thank you to all of you who were able to come and visit the school and be part of the class outcomes.



Christmas Performances

Well done to all the children for performing so well during their Christmas performances. The EYFS 'The Wriggly Nativity' and KS1 'A Midwife Crisis' productions were amazing. The KS2 carol concert at Christchurch was impressive; it was lovely to see so many of you there. I would like to extend a very BIG thank you to Nicky Footer for all of her hard work with all the children's performances.



Reception Class 2020

Your child can start in Reception class in the **September following their 4th birthday**. Applications for Reception 2020 must be submitted to Herts County Council by **15th January 2020**.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/School-admissions/School-admissions-and-transport.aspx>



Parent Forum Meetings

If you would like anything raised at the meetings please email your year group representative no later than one week prior to the meeting via emails below:

willow@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

lilac@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

birch@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

hazel@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

hawthorn@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

oak@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

year3@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

year4@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

year5@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

year6@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

The meetings are held by Mrs Thomas and Mrs Kenny, please see dates below:

- Monday 10th February 2020 at 2pm
- Monday 30th March 2020 at 2pm
- Monday 11th May 2020 at 2pm
- Monday 6th July 2020 at 2pm

Save the Children

Thank you to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day it was wonderful to see all the different children and staff jumpers. The atmosphere over Christmas lunch was very festive. Families also donated money during the school performances and carol concert.



In total the school managed to raise **£473.06** to support the Save the Children charity. Thank you.

Sports Update

As this half term draws to a close the children continue to work really hard in their PE lessons and in Key Stage 2 the term will end with the Intra house Hockey competition on Wednesday 18th December.

When we return in the New Year the children will be learning a range of skills in Dance, Gymnastics, Target Games, Handball and Badminton.

School Sport

Football

The girls and A football teams have both progressed to the Wix Cup Finals. The girls won their semi-final 3-0 against Whitehill and the A team followed with a 5-0 victory against Our Lady. The finals will both be played in the New Year.

Both teams also represented Hitchin at the ESFA county finals on Saturday 7th December in Watford. After some very tough matches the girls' team missed out on a place in the final by 1 point after 3 wins, a draw and a defeat. The A team also just missed out on a place in the final by 2 points after 4 wins and 2 defeats. This meant that both teams finished 3rd in the county and they should be very proud of their performances and the manner in which they represented the school.

Rapid Fire Cricket

Our Year 4 rapid fire cricket team travelled to Fearnhill School in Letchworth at the end of November. This is the first time we have entered the competition and our excitement was high on arrival. After 2 victories (Lordship Farm and Whitehill) and 1 defeat (St. Marys) we made it through to the final from our group. A tough match against Pixmore awaited us and after the tensest final we found out we had won by 1 boundary! The team will now represent North Herts at the county finals in the New Year. The children who attended played brilliantly and represented the school in exactly the right way showing skill, determination and sportsmanship.



Well done to all of our children this term, I have been very impressed with your attitude towards PE and the enthusiasm and effort you continue to show in lessons and for school sport.

Mr Smith

A message from the SLPA

A whopping £5,318.40 raised this term through 3 events and 3 fundraising projects. Well done everyone.

Joining the SLPA

Wednesday 15th January 8pm School. Please come along to our first meeting back in January. We are a friendly and welcoming small group of parents and desperately need more help to make next term's fundraising as profitable and successful as this term.

Dates for the Diary

Winter Disco – Children only – Friday 7th February

Quiz Night – Adults only – Friday 6th March

Film Night – Children only – Friday 27th March

Easter Egg Hunt – Friday 3rd April

Rock decorating competition

A huge well done to our winners:

Willow – Rex T

Lilac – Lois W

Birch – Andrej N

Hazel – Ethan W

Hawthorn – Jake A

Oak – Thomas K

Elm – Freya G

Ash – Florence B

Larch – NO ENTRIES

Pine – Molly M

Maple – Alexa M

Walnut – Jessica G

Spruce – Maia K

Beech – Elsa S

Christmas Character Competition

Congratulations to our Christmas character winners:

R - Sophia M (Willow)

1 - James S (Birch)

2 - Evan T (Oak)

3 - Bella N (Elm)

4 - Rowan S (Larch)

5 - NO ENTRIES


6 - Chloe H (Spruce)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks, the SLPA.

Attendance

Well done to Birch class for having the highest attendance for this term! Congratulations to everyone our Autumn term attendance for the whole school overall is 97.2%.



ATTENDANCE – Autumn Term 2019			
Lilac	98.2%	Ash	97.2%
Willow	97.9%	Larch	96.6%
Hazel	96.6%	Pine	97.5%
Birch	98.7%	Walnut	95.9%
Hawthorn	97.5%	Maple	97.2%
Oak	97.4%	Beech	95.9%
Elm	97.8%	Spruce	97.0%

Everbridge School Closure Notification System

In the event of inclement weather or in an emergency where we would have to close the school, as well as using Parentmail, the school also uses the Everbridge system which is the Hertfordshire County Council's School Closure Notification System. It takes 5 minutes to register your details so that you can receive immediate information and updates. Please sign up for Everbridge using this link:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Term Dates 2019/2020

Autumn Term	
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 20th December
Spring Term	
Children return to school	Monday 6th January
Half-Term break	Monday 17th – Friday 21st February
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 3rd April
Summer Term	
INSET Day*	Monday 20th April
Children return to school	Tuesday 21st April
Bank Holiday	Friday 8 th May
Half-Term break	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Summer Term	
Occasional Day*	Friday 19th June
Term Ends 2pm	Friday 17th July
INSET Day*	Monday 20th July
INSET Day*	Tuesday 21st July

*Children do not attend school on INSET Days or on the OCCASIONAL day

Diary Dates

Date	Class	Event	Time
15 th January 2020		SLPA Meeting	8pm
w/c 3 rd February 2020	Whole School	Feeling Good Week	All week
7 th February 2020		School Disco 1 - SLPA	TBC
10 th February 2020		Parents Forum Meeting	2pm
11 th February 2020		SLPA Meeting	8pm
6 th March 2020		Quiz Night - SLPA	TBC
w/c 9 th March 2020	Whole School	Science Week	
11 th March 2020	R, Yr 2, Yr 6	Parents Evening	5pm – 8pm
12 th March 2020	R, Yr 2, Yr 6	Parents Evening	4pm – 7pm
18 th March 2020	Whole School	Class Photos	All Day
27 th March 2020		Film Night - SLPA	TBC
30 th March 2020		Parents Forum Meeting	2pm
w/c 30 th March 2020		SLPA Easter Colouring Competition	All week
3 rd April 2020		SLPA Easter Egg Hunt	2pm
w/c 11 th May 2020	Year 6	SATS Week	All week
11 th May 2020		Parents Forum Meeting	2pm
13 th – 15 th May 2020	Year 4	Kingswood Trip	Wed – Fri
18 th – 22 nd May 2020	Year 6	Isle of Wight Trip	All week
w/c 8 th June 2020	Whole School	PE Week	All week
12 th June 2020		School Disco 2 – SLPA	TBC
23 rd June 2020	Yr 1, 3, 4, 5	Parents Evening	5pm – 8pm
24 th June 2020	Yr 1, 3, 4, 5	Parents Evening	4pm – 7pm

w/c 29 th June 2020	Whole School	Music Week	All week
6 th July 2020		Parents Forum Meeting	2pm
9 th July 2020	Whole School	Transition Day	All Day
10 th July 2020		SLPA Picnic	TBC
14 th July 2020	Whole School	Sports Day - KS2 - Rec & KS1	9.30am – 11.30am 1.30pm – 3pm

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Thomas

Tracy Thomas
Headteacher