

Gaping Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2JQ

Tel: 01462 456737

Email: [admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.samlucas.herts.sch.uk](http://www.samlucas.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 1 September/ October 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome back the whole school and wonderful to meet our new Reception children.



I would like to say well done to all the children for settling back in so quickly in their new classes and adapting to the new routines that are in place.

Thank you to all the parents who have shown great support during these challenging times.

### Staffing Update

At the end of October we will be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs Evans, as she is retiring, after working at Samuel Lucas for over 14 years. Mrs Winstanley will also be leaving us to take up a new position in another school. We will miss them both and I am sure you join me in wishing Mrs Evans and Mrs Winstanley all the best for the future.

### Uniform

Please could long hair be tied up and discreet coloured hairbands may be worn. Please ensure that no large hair accessories or jewellery are worn. In the interest of safety only one set of ear studs are permitted which should be removed or covered during P.E lessons. You can purchase Samuel Lucas uniform from Beats Uniform or order online at <https://beatschooluniforms.co.uk/>



### Year 5 Running Club

We started our early morning running club in the rain last week – the beginning of our training. We all got a bit wet, but really enjoyed feeling fit and healthy. Today 23 children joined us to train on Butts Close – I think we've already improved!

Well done Year 5!



## Payments



It would be appreciated if any requests for payments for school lunches etc. are made on time (preferably by Wisepay or cheque). Please send any payments in a sealed envelope with your child's name on and indicate what the payment is for. There is a locked post box in the school office porch for parents to post any envelopes and payments for the office.

## Packed Lunches



If your child has a packed lunch, please try and supply a healthy lunch for them. Please do not send in anything with nuts (peanut butter included!) as there are several children with allergies. No solid chocolate items or sweets are to be included with packed lunches. If you include a yoghurt or an item that needs your child to use cutlery, please send in a spoon or fork in their packed lunch. Also include a drink as their water bottles are kept in the classrooms.

## School Website

The school website can be found at

[www.samlucas.herts.sch.uk](http://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.

## Prospective Parent Meetings

Reception Class 2021

Your child can start in Reception class in the September following their 4th birthday. Applications for Reception 2021 must be submitted to Herts County Council by 15th January 2021.

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

Prospective parents are welcome to join the Headteacher's presentation on the following dates. Places are by appointment only. To book your appointment please either telephone the school office on 01462 456737 or email [admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk) In addition to this discussion a link will be sent to parents containing a virtual tour of the school site.

We look forward to meeting you.

Group Zoom appointment dates available are:

Tuesday 3rd November	2pm	Tuesday 10th November	10am
Friday 6th November	10am	Monday 16th November	2pm
Monday 9th November	2pm	Wednesday 18th November	10am

## **Applying for a Secondary School Place**

Applications for a secondary school place must be made by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**.

Hertfordshire County Council's application form is the legal application to any maintained school or academy in Hertfordshire (including Year 10 applications for a place at UTCs). If a child lives outside Hertfordshire they must use their own authorities' application form.

We encourage you to make an online application. You can access all the information you need, and can make an application for a school place at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

School information is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory)



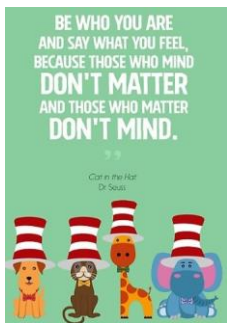
## **Parent Forum Meetings**

Parent Forum meetings will resume in the autumn term. The meetings will now be held via Zoom by Mrs Thomas and Mrs Kenny, please see dates below:

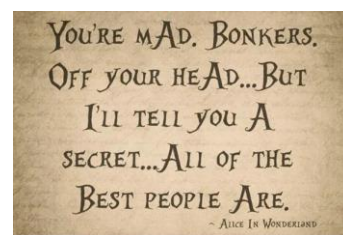
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 1.30pm
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 1.30pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 1.30pm
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 1.30pm
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 1.30pm
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 1.30pm

If you would like anything raised at the meetings please email your year group representative via email:

[willow@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:willow@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[lilac@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lilac@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[birch@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:birch@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[hazel@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hazel@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[hawthorn@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hawthorn@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[oak@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:oak@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[year3@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year3@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[year4@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year4@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[year5@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year5@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)  
[year6@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year6@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)



# Samuel Lucas Primary School Reading Newsletter



Welcome to the first addition of our reading newsletter dedicated only to books! You can find out what we are doing to promote reading across the school, along with book recommendations from book-loving teachers and pupils.

## Reading Incentives ...

Please remember that your child needs to read with an adult at home at least 5 times a week to support their reading development.

This should usually be their school reading book but could be a library book, a bedtime story book or another form of book/text.

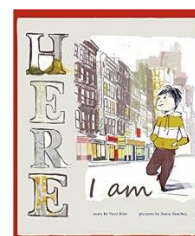
Children with 5 stars before half term are entered into a raffle to win a book! Good luck and keep reading!



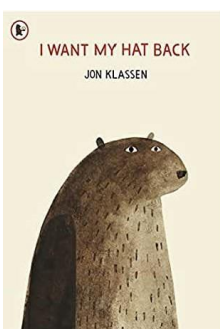
## Samuel Lucas Reading Events

We kicked off the academic year as a whole school studying a book called 'Here I Am' by Patti Kim. A trailer for the book can be seen online, but please ask your children if they can remember it and what it was about!

It raised great conversations about new beginnings, friendship, immigration and belonging.



## Mrs Hughes recommends ...



**Key Stage 1: I Want My Hat Back** Jon Klassen A simple story of a bear who has lost his hat! Try changing your voice for all the different characters bear meets and asks if they have seen his hat. The ending has a cheeky twist!



**Key Stage 2: The Girl who Speaks Bear** Sophie Anderson An exciting adventure and magical tale of a girl who wants to find out about her past and ultimately make a decision about where she feels she belongs. This story encompasses friendship, loss and love.

## Libraries – Have you ever been to your local library?

Next time you're passing, pop in and take a look. It's free to get a library card and you can usually take up to around 10 books out at a time. You don't know what you're missing until you've been in – there's something to entice everyone!

### **Reading Well Library Initiative**

. Reading Well for Children is a collection of books to help parents and carers to discuss difficult issues with their children.

The books cover general information and advice about: • maintaining good mental health and wellbeing • understanding and managing feelings • dealing with worries • navigating the world around you, including at school, online and in the news • dealing with tough times, including when someone dies, trauma, and when a parent or carer has mental health needs • support for living well with specific diagnosed conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and physical disabilities.

The books are free to borrow and are available on the open shelves of local public libraries. The booklist is targeted at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11) and includes a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and carers.

Further information on the Read Well initiative can be found at  
<https://reading-well.org.uk/children>

### **Black History Month**

Picture books can be impressive and effective tools to help teach young children about both history and modern-day life. What's more, they tell important stories in straightforward, yet gentle ways that open kids eyes to the world around them.

Picture books can also be used to support social emotional learning and can inspire conversations about diversity and make them something that happen naturally and routinely, not just when there is a problem to be solved.

Here are a few picture books to read now:

Let's talk about Race by Julius Lester

Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Peaceful Leader

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race



### **Next Month's Reading Newsletter**

- An Interview with a Teacher
- Blue Peter Book Award – shortlist announced
- Winners of the Autumn Term 1 Reading Challenge
  - Author spotlight
- More recommended reads.

## **Sports Update**

Around the world we go!

We launched the Daily Mile destinations in school this week! Each year group starts at a different country and every time a class is outside taking on the daily mile, they get to move their class marker further along towards the next country. We can't wait to see how far we can get and which countries we will visit!



## **PE**

It has made a huge difference having the children arrive at school in their PE kit on a PE day and we have been hard at work in our lessons so far this half term. As the weather changes and the winter approaches we still try to go outside for our lessons as much as possible. Children are okay wearing gloves or a hat for PE as long as they aren't restrictive or have anything hanging from them that could get tangled as they move

## **Autumn Term 1 Learning**

It has been great to get back to timetabled PE, the impact that learning and being active in the fresh air can have on our wellbeing has certainly been highlighted in the current times and it has been a joy to see the children back for their lessons.

This half term the learning for PE is as follows:

Reception	Locomotion: Walking	
Year 1	Locomotion: Running	Locomotion: Jumping
Year 2	Locomotion: Dodging 1	Locomotion: Jumping 1
Year 3	OAA: Orienteering	OAA: Communication & Tactics
Year 4	OAA: Orienteering	OAA: Communication & Tactics
Year 5	OAA: Orienteering	OAA: Communication and Tactics
Year 6	OAA: Orienteering	OAA: Communication and Tactics



In EYFS and Key Stage 1 our learning will focus on vital fundamental skills and in Key Stage 2 we are beginning with double Outdoor Adventure Activities units that will enable us to refine and develop some important values and life skills that we perhaps haven't encountered as frequently in the past months.

Mr Smith

### **A message from the SLPA**

Welcome back all. We hope you are all settling back into school life happily. Thank you to all those who attended the AGM, it was amazing to see so many new faces.

### **Bags2School**

Friday 16th October. Please keep unwanted clothing, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and bedding to donate and bring to school that morning, before drop off and leave at the bottom of the car park. Leaflets to attach to your own bin liners will be coming home in book bags shortly.

### **Break the Rules Day**

Friday 23rd October, we are super-excited to let you know about our first, 'Break the Rules' day. A letter will be sent home nearer the time with a list of rules your child may want to break. There will be a charge of 50p per rule which will need to be transferred directly into the SLPA bank account.

### **Christmas Raffle**

If you are able to donate or approach businesses to donate gift vouchers, meals, haircuts, gym passes etc please let Caz 07737102586 know.

### **Amazon**

If you've not signed up with AmazonSmile yet, please open the app, press the 3 lines at the bottom right on the screen, scroll down to, 'Programmes and Features' in bold, press, 'AmazonSmile' under it, and select 'Samuel Lucas JMI School Parents' Association' and start fundraising while you shop!

### **Name labels for uniform and shoes**

Purchase from the below companies, quote our school ID and fundraise.

[www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com) ID 35460

[www.name-labels.com](http://www.name-labels.com) ID 17422

If you have any ideas for fundraising during the current times, please get in touch or join our monthly Zoom next month.

The SLPA

### **Term Dates 2020/2021**

Autumn Term	
Half-Term break	Monday 26th October – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
OCCASIONAL Day*	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November

<b>Autumn Term</b>	
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 18th December
<b>Spring Term</b>	
INSET Day*	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Children return to school	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Half-Term break	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer Term</b>	
INSET Day*	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Children return to school	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Half-Term break	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Term Ends 2pm	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
INSET Day*	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
INSET Day*	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

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

Yours sincerely,

*Tracy Thomas*

Tracy Thomas  
Headteacher