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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 2 November 2020



Dear Parents,



### Christmas has started at Samuel Lucas!

Mr McAdam has put the backdrop up for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 plays. The Christmas trees have gone up and lights are glittering. A big thank you to the Samuel Lucas Parents' Association for their contribution for each class to buy Christmassy craft resources. We will be making decorations for the hall and classrooms. Lovely singing of Christmas songs can be heard around the school.

As we weren't able to have film night this year, we will be having a film afternoon in our classrooms. The SLPA will be providing crisps and squash for the occasion – thank you! Each class will decide on the film and date.

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, we have an action-packed day! It's Christmas jumper day! In the morning, instead of our daily mile, the children will be taking part in the Santa Canter – arranged by the SLPA - see their latest poster for further information. It is also the day of our Christmas lunch.

We have also arranged for a virtual pantomime for the whole school! The Market Theatre Company will present – Dick Whittington. This will be shown on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Cards

Please only send cards to children in the same bubble or class. The teachers will provide a box in the class for children to put their cards. They will then be distributed.

### Staffing Update

Friday we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Douglas who taking early retirement. She has done an amazing job in the school office. We will miss her and I am sure you join me in wishing Mrs Douglas all the best for the future. We are delighted to be welcoming back a familiar face...Miss Adam, who will returning to be the School Receptionist.

### Children in Need

Samuel Lucas took part in raising money for Children in Need on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their bright and/or spotty clothes. In total we raised **£663.87**.

Thank you.



## **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.

## **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 2021**.

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



## **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 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)

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[year6@samlucas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year6@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)

## **Pupil Wellbeing**

For some of our children, the current situation is taking its toll mentally. As a result, we felt it might be useful to share the following details with you.

Just Talk is a multi-agency campaign, steered by young people and coordinated by the Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council. The website hosts helpful resources about current issues. The site is updated frequently, so keep checking back. <https://www.justtalkherts.org/>

Health for Kids / Teens cover subjects that promote a healthy body and mind. All the content has been produced by school nurses, other health and wellbeing experts, and most importantly young people. Ages 11-19 <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire/>  
Primary age <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/> (There's also a section for parents and carers)



## **Instrumental lessons**

At Samuel Lucas School we offer a variety of extra-curricular music lessons for children in KS2.

Individual lessons are offered to pupils in Year 3 and upwards via Hertfordshire Music Service in the following instruments: Piano, Guitar, Brass, Cello, and Violin (please note, violin lessons are offered for pupils in Year 2 upwards).

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, you will now need to register with Herts Music Service directly at [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline) to apply for lessons or to join the waiting list, as the waiting list is no longer held by the school.

If you are in receipt of benefits you may be able to receive either 50% or full remission for music lesson fees. Details are available on the Herts Music Service website.

We also offer woodwind (clarinet, flute and saxophone) lessons through a company called Musicale [www.musicale.co.uk](http://www.musicale.co.uk) for pupils in Year 3 and above. Please contact Musicale via email [info@musicale.co.uk](mailto:info@musicale.co.uk) or telephone 01582 713333 for further details and an application form.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

## **End of Term Finishing Times**

Please note that on the last day of the Autumn term, 18<sup>th</sup> December, classes that normally leave at 3pm will leave at 2pm and those that normally leave at 3.15pm will leave at 2.15pm. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time via the school office.

## **A message from the SLPA**



### **SLPA SANTA CANTER – 9th December**

We are so excited to announce our first ever Santa Canter! On Wednesday 9th December the children will be invited to come to school wearing their Christmas

jumper to enjoy their Christmas lunch as normal. To make the day even more special, The SLPA have turned the children's Daily Mile into a sponsored Santa Canta! Children need to come in wearing trainers and may bring in a Santa hat if they want. We invite the children to be sponsored by family and friends to take part in the Santa Canta, any monies raised can be transferred into the SLPA account. Sponsorship is not compulsory to take part. A detailed letter to follow.

### **SLPA CLASS, CHRISTMAS MOVIE AFTERNOONS – last few weeks of term**

We love putting on movie nights for the children to enjoy, but this is not possible at the moment. Therefore, The SLPA have purchased a few festive favourites, squash and Walkers crisps. Each class will enjoy their own movie session, with a squash and a bag of crisps, during school hours, over the last few weeks of term. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £2 to be transferred into The SLPA bank account. A detailed letter to follow.



### **THE MARKET THEATRE VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE – DICK WHITTINGTON**

We are delighted that this Christmas the whole school will have access to a virtual show of Dick Whittington performed by The Market Theatre. Each class will watch this production on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING – AMAZON SMILE**

Please purchase Amazon products having first selected Samuel Lucas Parents' Association as your chosen charity, this can be passed on to family and friends to do too. In the Amazon app, press the 3 lines at the bottom right, scroll down to AmazonSmile, select Samuel Lucas Parents' Association. You need to renew this every few months, so do check you are generating donations regularly!

### **Name labels for uniform**

If you purchase name labels for uniform and shoes through either of the below companies and quote our school ID, The SLPA get a percentage of your order.

[www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com) ID 35460  
[www.name-labels.com](http://www.name-labels.com) ID 17422

### **Come to a meeting!**

We welcome new faces and ideas, so please join us at a meeting next year and be involved in our fundraising ideas and organising.

Thanks, the SLPA.

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

Term Ends at 2pm / 2.15pm	Friday 18th December
Spring Term	

<b>Spring Term</b>	
INSET Day*	Monday 4th January
Start of term	Tuesday 5th January
Half-Term break	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 26th March
<b>Summer Term</b>	
INSET Day*	Monday 12th April
Start of term	Tuesday 13th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May
Half-Term break	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
Term Ends 2pm	Tuesday 20th July
INSET Day*	Wednesday 21st July
INSET Day*	Thursday 22nd July

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

Yours sincerely,

*Tracy Thomas*

Tracy Thomas  
Headteacher