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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 3 December 2020



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy in school. The children have performed their Christmas productions and parents have been sent out instructions on how to view them. The whole school enjoyed Christmas lunch and Santa Canta. This week they have enjoyed the Christmas film and virtual Pantomime! Thank you SLPA.

Just a reminder school finishes today at 2pm for those classes that usually finish at 3pm and 2.15pm for those classes that usually finish at 3.15pm. Children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents and staff for all their support and hard work during this very difficult year. We have an amazing Samuel Lucas community and I wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas.



### Staffing Update

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December we were happy to welcome back Mrs Schroder from her maternity leave. We would like to wish Mrs Hughes the best of luck as she is finishing to go on maternity leave on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. After Christmas, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Shaw who will be teaching Beech Class while Mrs Hughes is on leave.



## 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 spring term. The meetings will now be held via Zoom by Mrs Thomas and Mrs Kenny, please see dates below:

- 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.

## **PE Update**

### **Daily Mile**

Our first journey around the world comes to an end this week with the last day being Friday 11th December. The children have participated very enthusiastically in the Daily Mile come rain or shine and you should all be very proud of your efforts this term. Our first ever Daily Mile Class Champions will be announced before the Christmas break!

### **PE**

We are braving the elements for PE at the moment but that hasn't dampened our enthusiasm or enjoyment!



Reception - have worked very hard at their Ball Skills using their hands this half term and did brilliantly to impress Mr French and Mrs Fisher at their attempt at the 'bounce, clap and catch' challenge. In Years 1 and 2 we have been working on our ball skills using our feet and hands. We have learnt about the different ways we can manoeuvre a ball, the importance of accuracy and control and why it is important to learn different ways to keep possession of the ball and avoid an opponent.

In KS2 this half term our PE lessons with our class teacher have been from the Outdoor Adventure Activities unit and we have focused on developing and learning about our problem solving skills. In PE with Mr Smith this half term we have participated in the Virtual Competitions organised by the North Herts School Sports Partnership. These have included Football (passing and agility), Boccia (snooker challenge), Archery (Years 5/6 individual and team) and Speed Stacking (3-3-3 individual/team and 3-6-3 individual/team). Over 5,000 children from the North Herts District have entered scores and our fantastic efforts have returned the following results:



### Boccia

Year 3/4 - 2nd Place  
 Year 5/6 - 1st Place  
 Inclusive KS2 - 3rd Place

### Archery

Girls Individual - Esme 3rd Place/Boys Individual - Dexter 3rd Place

### Speed Stacking

<b>Girls 3-3-3 Individual</b> Year 3 - Jessica - 2nd Place Year 4 - Amelia - 2nd Place Year 5 - Esme - 3rd Place Year 6 - Alexa - 2nd Place	<b>Girls 3-3-3 Team</b> Year 3 - 1st Place Year 4 - 3rd Place Year 6 - 2nd Place	<b>Girls 3-6-3 Individual</b> Year 4 - 3rd Place	<b>Girls 3-6-3 Team</b> Year 4 - 3rd Place
<b>Boys 3-3-3 Individual</b> Year 3 - Austin - 3rd Place Year 4 - Luca M - 2nd Place Year 5 - Thomas - 3rd Place Year 6 - William H - 2nd Place	<b>Boys 3-3-3 Team</b> Year 3 - 2nd Place Year 4 - 3rd Place Year 6 - 2nd Place	<b>Boys 3-6-3 Individual</b> Year 4 - 3rd Place	<b>Boys 3-6-3 Team</b> Year 4 - 3rd Place

### Football

Year 3/4 - 3rd Place  
 Year 5/6 - 1st Place



Well done to all of our children for their fantastic effort this half term, lots of hard work and rewards to show for it.

Mr Smith

### A message from the SLPA

Dear Parent/Carers,

It's been a funny old term! Thank you so much for all your fundraising support. We thought you'd like to know how the children have benefited this term from all of our efforts. Just a reminder if you want to

contribute £2 for the Movie Afternoons or transfer any sponsorship for The Santa Canta, there is still plenty of time, please transfer to our Barclays account, SLPA, Sort code: 20-41-12 Account number: 90806269

- \*The SLPA gave each class £40 to spend on Christmas activities and craft
- \*The SLPA paid for a virtual pantomime performed by Hitchin Market Theatre
- \*The SLPA have paid for class festive Movie Afternoons with squash and a bag of Walkers crisps each (if your child has an allergy to Walkers crisps, a substitute MUST be brought in by Monday)
- \*The SLPA contributed £2286 to new monkey rings and a drop rope for the playground with MORE equipment to come!
- \*The children had lots of fun with our Santa Canta and Break the Rules Day
- \*Congratulations to Amelie S, Freddie S and Jack F who won their classes extra playtime with their winning balloons from our Virtual Balloon Race

Happy Christmas everyone.


Stay safe,

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 98.1%.

*Please note attendance figures do not include absences related to COVID.*



<b>ATTENDANCE – Autumn Term 2020</b>			
Lilac	98.2%	Ash	98.4%
Willow	98.6%	Larch	97.8%
Hazel	98.7%	Pine	98.5%
Birch	99.3%	Walnut	98.0%
Hawthorn	98.2%	Maple	97.2%
Oak	97.9%	Beech	97.1%
Elm	98.1%	Spruce	97.4%

## **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>

## Reading Challenge

The English team and the teachers at Samuel Lucas would like to say well done to all of the following pupils who have achieved their 5 star reading challenge this half term and who will all receive a certificate. Please look out for the reading newsletter, which announces the winners of the book draw!

**Hazel:** Bella, Arlo, Freddy, Iris, Braham, Leonardas, Lucas, Lucy, Benjamin, Celeste, Josef, Rex and Sophai.

**Birch:** Hattie, Hamish, Anna, Nicholas, Edward, Jasmin, Mckenzie, Megan, Ariane and Arlo.

**Oak:** Iris, Cecil, Rosie, Jake, Arnaud, Renaiya, Anya, Fabio, Gaia, Alice, Hector, Sammi, Ethan, Joseph, Amelia, Angad, Ariel, Ben, Florence, Benjamin, Issy, Cecily, Rosie, Joe, Erin, Robin, Hannah and Ethan.

**Hawthorn:** Thomas, Toby, Harry, Evelyn, Olive, James, Seren, Henry, Andrej, Diya, Sam K, Lily, Audrey, Nancy and Alfie.

**Ash:** Jack P, Austin, Denny, Bethany, Moh, Oliver, Matas, Kelita, Avneet, Lily L, Alice and Ava.

**Elm:** George, Catherine, Ollie, Max, Mia, Elsie, Scarlett, Ellie-Rose, Isabella, Alexandra, Freddie and Olivia.

**Larch:** Clemie, Alice, Madhav, Tom, Frank, Rudy, Ellie, Milo, Dylan, Esmee and Katie.

**Pine:** Marley, Sachi, Luca (2), Ellie, Dylan (2), Max, Luke, Amelia, Othelia, Tom, Albie, Elliot, Charlie, Freya, James, Lily, Merryn (2) and Isla.

**Maple:** Alaia, Nafeesa, Megan, Archie, Thomas, Zara, Arthur, Edie, Isaac, Emilia, Ben and Laurie.

**Walnut:** Max, Jack, Joshua, Amelie, Olly x2, Zuzu, Lily, Seb x2, Isla, Jamal, Mara and Dexter.

**Beech:** Ella, Fred, Ahsen and Mia.

**Spruce:** Theo, Joshua, Honeymay, William, Evangeline, Alexander, Tom and Olly.

## Term Dates 2020/2021

Term Ends at 2pm / 2.15pm	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
<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

Summer Term	
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  
Headteacher