



Gaping Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2JQ

Tel: 01462 456737

Email: admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.samlucas.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

NEWSLETTER

No. 2 October 2021

Dear Parents,

This half term has been a very busy one. I would like to say a personal thank you to all of you for coming to the parents' consultation evenings. I'm pleased you were able to visit your children's classrooms, look at the learning in books – as well as having a face to face meeting with the class teacher. Also, a big thank you to all of you that came to join us in our Harvest Festival celebrations.

Staffing Update

We bid a fond farewell to Mr Allan and Miss Thrush, I am sure you will join me in wishing them both all the best for the future. We are delighted to have appointed three new Teaching Assistants; Mr Yates, Mr Morley and Mrs du Fou.

Children in Need

This year we will again be supporting The BBC's Children in Need appeal. It takes place on Friday 19th November and we will be inviting the children to come to school dressed up for the day. They could choose from wearing something yellow or spotty or choose something extra colourful to make everyone smile! More information will be sent out in a letter after half term.



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/>
PE days – On PE days children are allowed to come to school in their PE kits. The kit should consist of the red PE top with the school logo and black shorts. In cold weather children should wear their school jumper and black tracksuit bottoms.



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.

Applying for a Secondary School Place

Applications for a secondary school place must be made by **31st October 2021**.

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

School information is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory



Parent Forum Meetings

Parent Forum meetings will now be held via Zoom by Mrs Thomas and Mrs Kenny, please see dates below:

- Monday 6th December 2021 at 1.30pm
- Monday 7th February 2022 at 1.30pm
- Monday 21st March 2022 at 1.30pm
- Monday 9th May 2022 at 1.30pm
- Monday 4th July 2022 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
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

Harvest Festival

We are really pleased to have been able to welcome the Y3 & 4 parents to the first performance at Christchurch for a very long time! Our Y3/4 harvest festival was a great success. All the children sang brilliantly and really enjoyed their first KS2 performance in front of all the parents. We were very lucky to be so well supported by the Y5 & 6 members of the choir and orchestra too. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Davies who taught the children all the songs and to Mr Frowde who accompanied them so brilliantly on the piano. We couldn't have done it without them.

We are raising money for the local charity 'Humanitas', which runs a primary school in Ghana. If you would like to contribute please make a donation via the new Parentmail pay system.

We are really looking forward to the Y5 & 6 Christmas service next half term when we will be able to welcome many other parents to the church to help us celebrate.

We are changing the way you pay.....IRIS Parentmail

In order to improve the online payment facility and to make it easier for parents to pay online, going forward we will now be using a new online payments system on IRIS ParentMail. Therefore using the Parentmail system, you will now be able to give both consent and make payment for items such as trips, school meals, swimming, etc., quickly and easily using one system on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

We will inform you about items you need to pay through IRIS ParentMail, and you will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards as well as PayPal and PayPoint.

If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free IRIS ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or contact the school office.

Sports Update

We have been very busy in school this month for all things PE, School Sport and Physical Activity.

Physical Education

Early Years - we have been very busy working on a variety of core skills including climbing, jumping, running, walking, balancing, throwing and catching.



Years 1 and 2 have spent the past few weeks exploring a Health and Wellbeing unit which incorporates Agility, Balance and Co-Ordination. We have thought about how our bodies feel when we exercise, the muscles we are using and which sports might require us to use these ABC's in the future.

Years 3-6 have been busy working on their Tag Rugby skills in the last three weeks looking at both the defending and attacking aspects of the game as well as developing our ball carrying, passing and tagging skills. We will be combining these skills next week (18th October) to participate in our Intra-House matches.

School Sport

Tag Rugby



Two teams from Year 4 and two teams from Year 6 participated in the North Herts Sports Partnership Tag Rugby Festival at Letchworth Rugby club at the end of September/start of October. Miss Clapp and I were very impressed with how you performed against other schools and we were equally as proud with your teamwork, sportsmanship and the respect you showed to other players and the referees. A special thank you to Miss Bernstein who accompanied us to both days of Rugby! Please see a message from Miss Clapp below.

Rapid Fire Cricket

We were delighted to be asked to host a Hitchin schools Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket event earlier on in the month. We had two teams entered & they showed a lot of teamwork, effort and determination. A huge thank you must go to some of our Year 6 sports leaders who gave up their time afterschool to help officiate & score the event.



Football

We have had four teams play fixtures at Wilshire Dacre this month. Our Reds and Blues were the first to make the short journey and both teams played some fantastic football. The Blues came away 5-1 winners and the Reds were also victorious winning their game 8-1.

We then had two girls teams play their Wilshire Dacre counterparts shortly after. For some girls it was their first ever football match and I was very proud of their performance and the way they put their skills and knowledge into action. Our Red and White team won 4-0 and the Red and Black team drew a thrilling game 4-4!

There is a fixture before half term against St.Ippolyts before we play similar back to back fixtures against Whitehill after half term.

Netball

We had 28 girls travel to St.Francis School on Tuesday (12th October) with four teams in action! All of the games were played in very good spirits with some great Netball on display. The games weren't officially scored so there aren't any results to report however we scored some brilliant goals and again for lots of children it was their first ever match!

There are two netball fixtures against Ickelford here at school before half term.

Representing the School

We have had 95 different children represent the school so far this half term in a sporting event or fixture with more fixtures/events to come next week. I have been really delighted with the attitude, effort and commitment of all of our children who have represented the school so far and I look forward to more children having the same opportunity in the coming weeks. Well done everyone; you are a huge credit to our school!

Sports Committee

We have been able to restart our Sports Committee this year and so far we have a total of 27 members. The children have been working incredibly hard to prepare activities for some of our KS1 children as well as providing valuable ideas and suggestions for ways we can develop PESSPA at school.

Well done to all of our children this half term and thank you for making it such an enjoyable one!

Mr Smith

A message from Miss Clapp

A huge thank you to all the Samuel Lucas supporters that came to watch Saracens a few weekends ago. It was wonderful hearing you cheer from the side lines, hopefully you can come again!

Miss Clapp



This term a group of year 4s have been attending rugby club every Monday. Their skills have come on massively over the past few weeks and they were able to put these skills in to practise at a tournament at Letchworth rugby club. The children showed resilience and great respect to the other schools they played against. Well done Year 4!



A NOTE FROM THE SLPA

Hello Parents! As your new SLPA committee we've been busy these past weeks with the handover process and taking in the responsibilities that our new roles demand. With the assistance & guidance of the ex-committee members; the learning process has been quite encouraging! Our meetings have been brimming with exciting ideas for the all the possible events we plan to bring to you and the excitement they will unfold for our school children. We may be learning on the job but our vision is clear —to provide fun opportunities for our kids (and parents) and in the process raise money for our school. You've all been very supportive and we appreciate your contributions.

COOKIE SALE

Being our very first event, the 'Yummy in my Tummy Cookie Sale' on 22nd October got us putting our ideas into practice and the response from the parents has been great! We catered to specific dietary requirements too (gluten-free/ dairy free/vegan) to ensure happy faces all around! As the SLPA committee was manning the sale stations, it brought a wonderful opportunity to interact with the parents and introduce ourselves. It indeed was a delicious way to welcome half-term.

SLPA LOTTERY

We are happy to share that SLPA lottery is now up to 75% of the membership that we had for last year so many thanks to everyone who joined! There is still time to participate as the September and October draws won't be drawn until after half-term. Your chance to win starts with a sign up! Lottery forms were sent with your child and are also attached to the reminder sent via ParentMail but in case you can't get hold of them and would like to register interest, please get in touch with us at enquiries.slpa@gmail.com

BAG2SCHOOL

You'll soon have the opportunity to donate unwanted items and clothing for this term's Bag2School collection which is scheduled on 8th November. This is a fun, free and easy way to raise funds for the school through your donations of unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts & accessories (no uniforms please!) . The school gets paid for the total weight collected. *So, the more we weigh the more they pay!*

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The season to be jolly is around the corner and we have some exciting activities coming up! The theme for the Christmas tree festival this year is '**An Aurora of Polar Bears - An awakening**'. A paper template of a Polar Bear has been sent with your child and instructions are on the email sent via ParentMail. Please ensure the decorated bears are back in the school office by 26th November so we can make a winning tree with an important message attached! You also have your Christmas gift orders to look forward to! They should be with you by Nov 4th. In addition to Santa Canta, the children will continue to enjoy the SLPA funded afternoon with snacks and back with popular demand we will be holding the SLPA Break the Rules Day!

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile brings another opportunity for fundraising with no effort! 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, and 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 new school 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 ID 35460

www.name-labels.com ID 17422

DONATE DIRECTLY!

We have been asked how people can donate directly, if this is something you would like to do, please transfer directly into our account with the reference 'donation.' Barclays Bank - Sort code: 20-41-12 Account number: 90806269 thank you in advance.

Have a lovely half-term!

The SLPA

School Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Year Group
Pupils Individual Photos	02.11.2021	All Day	Whole School
Open Evening	23.11.2021	4-7pm	Whole School
Parent Forum	06.12.2021	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Carol Service @ Christchurch	10.12.2021	2pm	Year 5 & Year 6
Bikeability	13.12.2021-17.12.2021	All Week	Year 6
Christmas Lunch	15.12.2021	Lunchtime	Whole School
Break the Rules Day	17.12.2021	All Day	Whole School
Bikeability	24.01.2022-28.01.2022	All Week	Year 5
Parent Forum	07.02.2022	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Feeling Good Week	07.02.2022-11.02.2022	All Week	Whole School
Parents Evening	09.03.2022	5-8pm	Reception, Yr 2 & Yr 6
Parents Evening	10.03.2022	4-7pm	Reception, Yr 2 & Yr 6
Parent Forum	21.03.2022	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Science Week	28.03.2022-01.04.2022	All Week	Whole School
Reports out to parents	01.04.2022	3.15pm	Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5
SATS Week	09.05.2022-13.05.2022	All Week	Year 6
Parent Forum	09.05.2022	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Kingswood	11.05.2022-13.05.2022	3 Days	Year 4
Isle of Wight	16.05.2022-20.05.2022	All Week	Year 6
PE Week	13.06.2022-	All Week	Whole School

	17.06.2022		
Parents Evening	22.06.2022	5-8pm	Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5
Parents Evening	23.06.2022	4-7pm	Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5
Additional Bank Holiday in Lieu – School Closed	24.06.2022	All Day	Whole School
Music Week	27.06.2022-01.07.2022	All Week	Whole School
Parent Forum	04.07.2022	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Open Evening	06.07.2022	4-7pm	
Transition Day	07.07.2022	All Day	Year 6
Reports out to Parents	08.07.2022	3.15pm	Reception, Yr 2, Yr 6
Sports Day	12.07.2022	9.30-11.30am 1.30-3pm	KS2 KS1 & Reception

Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn Term 2021	
Half-Term break	Monday 25 th October – Friday 29 th October
Occasional Day*	Friday 26 th November
Term Ends at 2pm	Tuesday 21 st December
Spring Term 2022	
INSET Day*	Wednesday 5 th January
Start of term	Thursday 6 th January
Half-Term break	Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th February
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 1 st April
Summer Term 2022	
INSET Day*	Tuesday 19 th April
Start of term	Wednesday 20 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd May
Half-Term break	Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June

Autumn Term 2021	
Bank Holiday in Lieu	Friday 24 th June
Term Ends 2pm	Wednesday 20 th July
INSET Day*	Thursday 21 st July
INSET Day*	Friday 22 nd July

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

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Thomas
Headteacher