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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

NEWSLETTER

No. 3 November 2021

Dear Parents,

We have been very busy since half term. The children are practicing their Christmas performances which will be recorded. Details on how and when you can watch your child's performance will be sent to you via Parentmail.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Mrs Farnell's baby boy. Mrs Farnell has now started her maternity leave and we would like to wish her the best of luck with her new baby. We are pleased to have welcomed back Mrs Hughes following her maternity leave this month.

Children in Need

Samuel Lucas took part in raising money for Children in Need on Friday 19th November. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their bright and/or spotty clothes. We have raised £977.60 so far. You still have the opportunity to donate until Friday 3rd December. Thank you.



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.

As the weather is colder please ensure your child has a warm coat in school each day and that their coat is clearly named.

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 a notification whenever there is a new blog to read.

Applying for a Reception Class 2022

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 2022**.

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

Samuel Lucas took part in raising money for the local charity 'Humanitas'. In total we raised £378.50. Thank you.

Sports Update

Physical Education

Early Years – We have continued our work on our core movement skills this month focusing on climbing, jumping, landing, throwing, balancing and partner work. We also incorporated Nursery Rhyme Week into our learning! We will be introducing ball skills in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas.



Year 1 and 2

We have just completed our first unit of Ball Skills where we have focused on using our hands to bounce and catch, send and receive a ball, dribbling and combining skills into group activities.

We have just started our second unit of Ball Skills using our hands where our learning takes us towards underarm and overarm throws, aiming for targets and catching.

Years 3 – 6

In Key Stage 2 we have finished our learning on a Communication and Tactics unit where we have learnt about the importance of teamwork, leadership, communication and developing and applying tactics to different scenarios.

We have started a unit of Hockey which will take us towards the end of the term. Every child will then represent their house in the end of unit Intra-House tournament.

School Sport

We have now had 149 children represent the school in a sporting event since September! Well done to everyone who has had this opportunity so far you have shown a fantastic attitude and behaviour in doing so. I look forward to more children having the chance in the future months.

Football

We have had friendly matches at Whitehill Junior School this month for our Year 5 and 6 teams as well as our Girls team. They were very competitive games with lots excellent dribbling, passing and teamwork on show. Although some of the games were tough the children showed a lot of resilience to keep persevering and it was great to see some children represent the school for the first time in a football match.

Netball

We had two home fixtures with St. Andrews this month with both schools playing some excellent Netball. The children have worked really hard on their shooting in practice sessions and this was reflected in the matches with one of the games going into double figures for goals scored!

Boccia

We had two teams entered in the North Herts School Sport Partnership (NHSSP) Boccia competition earlier in the month. We hadn't entered before and were full of excitement on arrival to Knights Templar.

The children played brilliantly, transferring all of their skills from practice into 5th and 7th place finishes!

Table Tennis



Our boys and girls table tennis teams took part in the NHSSP Table Tennis Tournament earlier in the month. After showing a lot of dedication to practice at lunchtimes we made the short trip to Hitchin Boys School full of anticipation.

All of the children played some fantastic table tennis and I am delighted to say were nominated as team of the day by the other schools in attendance for their teamwork, self-belief and respect! This was such amazing news to receive as we work very hard in our lessons and extra-curricular activities on the values that we can learn through PE and sport. Well done everyone!

The brilliant news didn't finish there – after the group stages we went into the final playoffs. The girls could not be separated on games or points from their St. Thomas More counterparts so both teams shared 7th place!

The boys' team made it through to the final and in a tense round of matches against Pixmore Junior School they won on points to finish in 1st place. That meant they made it through to represent North Herts at the county finals in Watford!

The standard was very high at the county finals and the boys performed very well resulting in an 8th place finish. 8th in the whole of Hertfordshire is a huge achievement and one to be very proud of. I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs McNish for her help and support at the event!

Physical Activity Enrichment

Physical activity enrichment continues as we brave the colder weather but it is important to show that we can be active in a variety of ways regardless of the weather or the conditions around us. We have experienced den building, capture the flag, speed stacking and four square in the last few weeks amongst other activities.


Well done everyone – in a busy month you have shown enthusiasm, respect, resilience, teamwork and the ability to demonstrate the skills we are learning in a range of environments.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Mr Smith

Attendance

Well done to **Ash class & Larch class** for having the highest attendance for this month!



Lilac	95.7%	Ash	98.7%
Willow	94.1%	Larch	98.7%
Hazel	95.0%	Pine	97.3%
Birch	95.5%	Walnut	95.7%
Hawthorn	97.9%	Maple	97.6%
Oak	97.7%	Beech	95.8%
Elm	94.9%	Spruce	93.8%

A NOTE FROM THE SLPA

Hello Parents! With Christmas around the corner, what a busy term this is turning out to be! We have lots planned for your children and are certain they will enjoy this festive period at school. All your support has been quite encouraging and we appreciate all the volunteers who have come forth to assist with various activities. We planned to hold an open meeting to invite parents to be a part of SLPA and welcome new ideas. However, keeping in line with the current school policy of limiting gatherings; we shall either hold an online meeting or leave it to next year when the conditions improve hopefully. Meanwhile, please get in touch with us if you have any suggestions, activity ideas or are happy to help towards a smooth execution of our activities. Any contribution is welcome!

SLPA LOTTERY

We are happy to share that SLPA lottery currently has 92 members! (Insert Applause) Thank you to everyone who signed up. We will shortly be drawing out numbers for December along with a special Christmas bonus draw in which the winner will receive £92! How exciting! The cheques for November Draw will go out this week, just in time for some Christmas shopping. If you would like to register interest in the SLPA Lottery, please get in touch with us at enquiries.slpa@gmail.com

BAG2SCHOOL

A huge Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted items and clothing for this term's Bag2School collection which was scheduled on 8th November. The school gets paid for the total weight collected and we now have an impressive £225 added to our funds!

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

It's the season to be jolly and we have some exciting activities coming up starting with the Christmas Tree Festival! Thank you for submitting your decorated Polar Bears for this year's theme '**An Aurora of Polar Bears - An awakening**'. The ornaments look so good and we can't wait to showcase our tree at the festival! We have been given the decorating slot for 7th December so if you haven't done so already, please have your polar bears submitted by 6th December at the latest. A template of the Polar Bear was sent via ParentMail. Thanks to all the Volunteers too have offered to put the tree up and take it down after. Any assistance is much appreciated!

Ho -Ho-Hope the kids enjoyed their Christmas gift orders and are excited to have personalised their Christmas! The children will have some fun activities to look forward to soon like Santa Canta, 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.

The SLPA

School Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Year Group
Parent Forum	06.12.2021	1.30pm	Class Representatives
Bikeability	13.12.2021- 17.12.2021	All Week	Year 6
Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	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- 17.06.2022	All Week	Whole School
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

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
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

Tracy Thomas
Headteacher