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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 4 December 2021



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy in school. The children have performed their carol concert and Christmas productions and parents will be sent out instructions on how to view them on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. The whole school enjoyed Christmas lunch, Santa Santa and a Christmas film. Thank you SLPA.

Just a reminder school children return to school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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

We bid a fond farewell to Miss Painter, who is leaving to be a Deputy Headteacher nearer to home and Miss Herbert who is relocating. Mrs Shaw will be starting her maternity leave in January, she will not be returning so she can spend time with her growing family. We wish them all the best of luck for the future. We are delighted to welcome Miss Wakefield who will be teaching in Year 4.



## 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](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 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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

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



## Bikeability

It has been very busy in year 6 this week! The wonderful Bikeability team have been with us, providing our children with the invaluable opportunity to develop their cycling skills both in school and on the road. The children have been extremely enthusiastic and sensible and we are proud to have received such positive feedback from the instructors throughout the week.

## Parent Forum Meetings

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

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 1.30pm (Deadline for agenda items – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022)
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 1.30pm (Deadline for agenda items – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022)
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1.30pm (Deadline for agenda items – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 1.30pm (Deadline for agenda items – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

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)

## HGS Science at Samuel Lucas!

Year 6 were lucky enough to participate in Science Light experiments by HGS teacher Mr Goldring and two Year 13 Scientists. Year 6 Scientists explored reflection, refraction and investigated with light boxes. We had a lot of fun learning about Light in preparation for our 'Light' learning next term as well as working with Hitchin Girls' School in preparation for secondary school as well.



## Attendance

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



### ATTENDANCE – December 2021

Lilac	94.9%	Ash	97.8%
Willow	95.9%	Larch	98.4%
Hazel	95.7%	Pine	96.7%
Birch	96.1%	Walnut	95.9%
Hawthorn	97.6%	Maple	97.6%
Oak	97.4%	Beech	96.1%
Elm	94.9%	Spruce	94.5%

## **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>

## **String Instrument Group**

Wednesday 8 December saw the launch of our new string group at Samuel Lucas. It is open to all bowed string players who have had at least one term of lessons, meeting before school on a Wednesday morning. It is led by local musician and Samuel Lucas parent, Rufus Frowde.

So far, the group has enjoyed learning to play as an ensemble and has been improvising together. Look out for the group's first performance early in the new year.



## **Sports Update**

### **PE**

EYFS - we have been working in our lessons to add ball skills to the development of our fundamental movements. These skills include rolling, bouncing, throwing, catching and stopping. We finished the term with a Christmas themed lesson this week. Well done to both classes, the start of your PE journey at Samuel Lucas has been fantastic!

Years 1 and 2 - We have completed the second unit of Ball Skills using our hands with an emphasis on overarm throwing, aiming for targets and fielding work.

Years 3-6 - The children in Key Stage 2 have been working to develop their hockey skills including dribbling, passing/receiving, shooting and attacking/defending. We have then looked at applying our skills into game scenarios. In upper key stage 2 we have incorporated officiating into our learning to consolidate our knowledge.

## **School Sport**

As the term draws to a close, I also wanted to thank all of the children who have attended clubs throughout this term. The effort, dedication and commitment you have shown to attend before, during and after school is admirable. You have represented the school in exactly the right way and I am very proud of how you have conducted yourselves. Well done!

Mr Smith

## **A NOTE FROM THE SLPA**

Hello Parents! With Christmas almost here, we hope you are ready for the break! 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 hopefully improve. 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 very welcome and would love to hear new ideas brought to the table!!

### **SLPA LOTTERY:**

We are happy to share that SLPA lottery currently has 92 members! (Insert Applause) Thank you to everyone who signed up. December also sees the Christmas Bonus draw with a huge prize of £92! Congratulations to Asta Gasiune who is this year's Christmas winner! How exciting! If you would like to register interest in the SLPA Lottery, please get in touch with us at [enquiries.slpa@gmail.com](mailto: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! Again Thank-you to Victoria who arranges this!

### **CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

It's the season to be jolly and we have some exciting updates on this past term 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 looked fantastic and were all so individual.

We are delighted to announce the results:

- 2nd place in the Visitor's vote!
- 3rd place in the Primary Schools Class!



Well done everyone! We had so many beautiful decorations that the tree was full to the brim! We have given all decorations back the school, so your child should bring it back home.

We would like to make a special thanks to all the volunteers that worked hard to transform the decorated pictures into hanging decorations and to put the tree up and take it down after.

Ho -Ho-Hope the kids enjoyed their Christmas gift orders and are excited to have personalised cards etc. The children have had some fun activities such as the Santa Santa and Xmas jumper day. We have also funded a movie

afternoon with snacks and juice (kindly donated too) for today and back by popular demand we will be holding the SLPA Break the Rules Day – a firm favorite amongst the children!

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

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

### **DONATIONS**

We have set up payment via Parent Mail to make donation so much easier now! Please check your app or go to the shop link at the bottom for donations to our events.

Enjoy the festivities! Merry Christmas everyone!

The SLPA - Supreet, Natalie, Suzanne, Nicola, Jeni and Caroline.

### **School Events Calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year Group</b>
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**

<b>Spring Term 2022</b>	
INSET Day*	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Start of term	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Half–Term break	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
<b>Summer Term 2022</b>	
INSET Day*	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Start of term	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April

Spring Term 2022	
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Half-Term break	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Bank Holiday in Lieu	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Term Ends 2pm	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
INSET Day*	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
INSET Day*	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

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

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Thomas  
Headteacher