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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 6 March / April 2022

Dear Parents,

What an exciting spring term we have had at Samuel Lucas and we are looking forward to the summer term. Thank you to all the parents who attended our Outcomes Evening, it was lovely to see so many of you. May I remind you, as hopefully the weather will be warming up, to send your child to school with a named water bottle and also a summer cap. Children return to school on **Wednesday 20th April 2022**. Have a lovely Easter break.

### Staffing Update

We are very sad to say that today is Mr McAdam's last day at Samuel Lucas. He is moving to another school much closer to home. He will be sadly missed by staff and pupils. Miss Rogers and Miss Woodbridge are also leaving to pursue new challenges. I am sure you join us in wishing them all the best for the future.

After Easter we will be welcoming two new teachers; Mrs Reed who will be teaching Year 6 and Mr Davies who will be teaching Year 1.

### Parent Forum Meetings

Our next Parent Forum meeting will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:willow@samlucas.herts.sch.uk)

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

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

### Year 3 Swimmers

Well done to Year 3 who have all completed their first course of school swimming lessons. Their teachers have been so impressed by their resilience and willingness to face new challenges! It has been lovely to watch their confidence in the water grow and I'm sure they're all looking forward to next year's lessons.

## Attendance

Well done to **Hawthorn and Pine class** for having the highest attendance for this month!



ATTENDANCE – March 2022			
Lilac	94.9%	Ash	95.7%
Willow	95.2%	Larch	96.3%
Hazel	94.4%	Pine	97.4%
Birch	96.6%	Walnut	95.2%
Hawthorn	97.4%	Maple	96.8%
Oak	97.2%	Beech	94.6%
Elm	95.7%	Spruce	94.3%

## Science Week

Hello Samuel Lucas scientists,

This week is science week at Samuel Lucas! Our Samuel Lucas scientists have been participating in a range of selected activities by the children in each year group which have allowed them to explore, inquire and get practical with the theme 'Growth' focusing on how we grow, growing population and how we can create a more sustainable future!

We also have planned our whole school investigation - seeing which class will grow the tallest sunflower, we will be observing our sunflower growth over the summer term.

Thank you for all for the fantastic zoomed-in photos submitted for the whole school science competition! I have compiled a selection of 26 photos for all scientists to use their predicting skills to predict what the zoomed in photo is. There will be a 1 EY/KS1 winner and 1 KS2 winner for the most correct guesses that will be awarded when we return from Easter break. Teachers will also be awarding Scientists of the Week in this Friday's celebration assembly!

I hope you have all had a brilliant science week.

Yours scientifically,

Miss Mai



## **Sports Update**

### **Physical Education**

**EYFS** – We have been continuing our work on our ball skills with an emphasis on throwing and catching. Our fundamental movements continue to underpin our learning and we have also started looking at object control in the form of mini noodles and balloons!

**Year 1** – After completing our gymnastics unit which finished with exploring linking movements to make a mini sequence – we have now started work on a Games for Understanding unit. We have been exploring what it means to be an attacker and a defender. We have then looked at how we transfer these skills into team games.

**Year 2** – After completing our gymnastics unit which finished with some excellent sequence performances – we have now started work on a Games for Understanding unit. We have been looking at how we can work as a team to score as many points as we can and also how we can prevent other teams from scoring points. We have discussed our tactics/strategies for this and reflected on how successful we were afterwards.

**Year 3** – Our gymnastics unit finished with paired sequence performances before moving onto our current unit of Dance. Our learning is themed around the weather – so far we have explored moving and responding to the sound of the drum and music whilst creating a storm sequence and a volcanic eruption sequence. The children are also approaching the end of their block of swimming lessons.

**Year 4** – We have finished our Dance unit which was themed around Space. Our lessons finished with a paired performance where we performed our interpretation of an Alien and an Astronaut encountering each other. We have started a unit of Orienteering which will take us through to the Easter break.

**Year 5** – On completing our Dance unit we have been working through our Orienteering unit in the past couple of weeks. We are developing our map reading skills, considering the importance of a key and how we locate points on a map/route planning, as well as working out which direction we are travelling in.

**Year 6** – After finishing our Orienteering unit, we have been working through our Gymnastics unit of Matching and Mirroring. We have looked at how we apply our skills onto the apparatus and are now working towards creating a sequence for end of unit performances.

### **School Sport**

#### **Year 4 Dodgeball Festival**

A team of Year 4 children travelled to Knights Templar School in Baldock for a Dodgeball festival with other local schools in the North Herts area. We had a lot of fun throwing, catching and dodging! Well done to all of the children who represented the school so well.

#### **Year 5 Netball Festival**

A team of Year 5 girls participated in a Netball festival at St. Francis College on Monday 14th March. We played 10 minute matches against other local schools before the final presentation. Well done to Lauren (most improved) and Rosie (player of the tournament) for their awards and to all of the girls who have made such brilliant progress this year!



### **Football – Wix Cup Semi Final**

A team of footballers made the short trip to William Ransom School for their Wix Cup Semi Final match. It had been raining all afternoon and in tricky conditions, both teams played their part in a cracking game of football. After hitting the post early on and both teams having half chances the score at half time was 0-0. The second half began much like the first before we conceded from a well worked goal. The team was quick to respond with Zac scoring with a well-placed effort past the home keeper to make it 1-1. In a nervy finish, with extra time and penalties looming, a flick on from Dan saw Zac race through and calmly finish to make the score 2-1 and send us into the final! Player of the match went to Zac for his match winning goals. A special mention to James who defended brilliantly all match in tough conditions.



### **Sportshall Athletics**

Some of our Year 5 and 6 athletes participated in the NHSSP Sportshall Athletics competition at Highfield School in Letchworth. The heats were very competitive and the children competed brilliantly. We took lots of 1st and 2nd place finishes in our heats which meant both boys' and girls' teams finished 5th overall.

### **Netball Rally**

A team of Year 6 Netballers participated in the end of season Netball Rally at Whitehill School on Saturday 19th March. We lost our first two matches against Whitehill and Ickleford. Both games were 0-0 at half time but some clinical shooting from our opponents saw us fall to 2-0 and 3-0 defeats respectively. The children showed great resilience and determination in the next match against Our Lady school. After falling a goal behind, a brilliant attacking display from Libby and Nafeesa helped lead us to a 3-1 victory. We were ahead in our final two matches against William Ransom and St.Andrews but were pegged back in the second half in both games finishing 1-1 and 2-2. Overall this meant we finished in 5th

place. The children have made excellent progress with their Netball skills this year and should be very proud of their efforts.

Well done to all of our children this term – whether it be PE, School Sport or Enrichment you continue to show a great effort and enthusiasm towards your learning. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us as we move into the summer term!

## Double Football Champions!

Two of our football teams participated in End of Season Rally's in the past week and both have come away victorious!

### **B Team Rally**

Squad: Benjamin, Samuel, Jaylon, Dexter, Rocco, George, Dylan and Frank.

We travelled to Whitehill School for the End of Season Rally on Thursday 24th March. Our first game was against Wilshire Dacre where a cracking goal from Dylan was cancelled out by an equaliser from our opponents. Frank and Dylan combined to create the winning goal with the latter finishing with a neat side foot finish for a 2-1 win.

In our second match we faced host school Whitehill with Dylan (2) and Dexter on the scoresheet in a 3-0 victory.

In our third match we played Purwell where goals from Rocco, Dylan and a fine half volley from Frank saw us take the points with a 4-0 win.

The final group game was against St.Andrews and a fine team performance saw us run out 2-0 winners.

This meant we had topped the group with 12 points from a possible 12, scoring 11 goals and conceding 1. The back two of Samuel and Jaylon had defended really well and Ben in goal had dealt well with any shots that had come his way.

We were drawn against St.Ippolyts in the Semi Final and in a close game we came away with a 2-0 victory – both goals coming from Dylan, the first being a wonderful left foot half volley that crashed off the crossbar and went in leaving the goalkeeper with very little chance.

We were full of confidence going into the final where we faced William Ransom. A great team performance saw us take the trophy with a lob from Dylan and a fantastic strike from Dexter from out wide with the opposition goalkeeper stranded. A 2-0 win and a thoroughly deserved trophy for the team! Well done to all of the players and thank you to the support from our parents.

### **A Team Rally**

Squad: Olly, James, Jack, Dan, Archie, Thomas, Zac and Dylan.

On Saturday 26th March we competed in the A team football rally at Wilshire Dacre School. Following a withdrawal from a school in our group, we played a friendly with Our Lady before heading into our first group game with St.Andrews. Despite creating lots of chances we couldn't quite find a goal to win the game and some brilliant defending from our opponents meant the opening game finished 0-0.



In our second game we faced host school Wilshire Dacre. A wonderful solo effort from Zac put us 1-0 ahead before Dan followed up a loose ball to finish left footed for 2-0. A well worked goal from Wilshire Dacre reduced the deficit but we saw the game out to take the points. 2-1.

Our final group game was against Our Lady and with the clock running down and the game tied at 0-0, a corner from Dan was tipped into the net by the opposition goalkeeper which gave us a 1-0 win and top spot in the group.

This meant a semi-final match with Ickleford. A very nervy and tense match was heading to a penalty shootout when Dan's corner was met by Archie who headed the ball powerfully into the net for 1-0. Ickleford rallied and broke through to equalise with a thumping finish for 1-1 which meant – penalties.

Ickleford missed their first penalty hitting the crossbar while Zac scored his for 1-0. Olly saved the second penalty with a strong hand before a brilliant penalty from Dan came off the inside of the post and back out to keep the score at 1-0. Ickleford stepped up knowing they had to score to stay in the tie and a superb diving save from Olly to his right sent us through to the final and a match with St.Ippolyts for the trophy.

A very even and tense game sprung into life when Zac burst through and shot at goal. The ball rebounded off of the goalkeeper and post – Thomas was there for the rebound to slot home for 1-0. The game was end to end and Olly made an unbelievable save from point blank range to keep us ahead. Zac almost made it two when he raced through but the opposition keeper made a great save to deny him. The final whistle went and the trophy was ours! Another fantastic effort from the players and a big thank you for the support from the parents in attendance.



# Girls Football Rally!

A team of our girl footballers travelled to Whitehill School on Tuesday evening (29th March)

to participate in the end of season football rally.

The girls played brilliantly and did a great job of putting their skills from our training sessions into practice.

In a game of few chances we drew our first match of the group stage with Whitehill 0-0. In our second match we won 1-0 against Wilshire Dacre with a goal from Kirsten after a great run from Izzy.

Our third match was against William Ransom who proved to be tough opposition and we fell to a 1-0 defeat. Our final group game was against Ickleford and in another close game we drew 0-0. This meant we finished in 2nd place in the group and progressed to the Quarter Final for a match against Purwell.

A fantastic team performance capped off with two brilliantly taken goals from Izzy saw us through to the Semi-Final with a 2-0 victory.

This meant a Semi-Final match against host school Whitehill. Another close match finished 0-0 and this meant a penalty shootout! Izzy struck the first penalty really well but just missed the bottom corner. Whitehill scored to make it 1-0. Freya scored her penalty for 1-1 and then Othelia made a great save. Annie then struck her penalty past the Whitehill goalkeeper. Another brilliant save from Othelia meant we went through to the final 2-1 on penalties!

The final was against William Ransom and in another very tough game we unfortunately lost 2-0 which meant a well-earned Runners-Up medal.

I am very proud of the girls, their attitude, effort and skills were fantastic!

Well done to all!



# Hockey Tournaments!

We have had three hockey teams participate in hockey events through the School Sports Partnership this week (Wednesday 30th March).

On Wednesday morning we had a team of children take part in a festival with local schools from Letchworth, Baldock and Hitchin. The children showed a brilliant attitude to their hockey combined with excellent teamwork and skill. We had a great morning scoring lots of goals and developing our play.

That afternoon we had two teams compete in a tournament again with local schools from the North Herts area. Both teams played some fantastic hockey and really came together as a group.

The results were as follows:

## **B Team**

SL 1-0 Ickleford

SL 0-0 Lordship Farm

SL 'B' 0 – 1 SL 'A'

SL 0-0 St.Francis

SL 0- 1 Whitehill 'A'

SL 0-0 St.Andrews

SL 2-0 Whitehill 'B'

These performances and results meant the B team finished in 5th place overall – well done to all involved!

## **A Team**

SL 2-1 Lordship Farm

SL 3-0 Ickleford

SL 1-0 SL 'B'

SL 8-0 Whitehill 'B'

SL 3-1 St.Francis

SL 4-0 St.Andrews

SL 1-1 Whitehill 'A'

These performances and results meant the A team finished as tournament winners! Well done to all involved! The team will now represent North Hertfordshire in the County Finals in May.

Mr Smith





## **A Note from the SLPA**

Hello Parents and Carers! What an eventful few weeks we've had! We at SLPA are thrilled to share that our recent events have all been a great success and we thank you all for your inputs, participation, contributions and efforts towards seamless execution of these events that have taken shape after an unprecedented gap of two years! It's been heart-warming to see the school come together after so long and we intend to keep it this way. Please make this an ongoing support and together we shall ensure lots of smiling faces!

### **Holi Festival**

The first of its kind Holi Festival was celebrated on March 19th that extended the familiar colour run to a global celebration of colours through the popular Indian festival of Holi. Playing with colours was on the agenda along with a variety of food, refreshments, activities, dance and music that kept everyone busy — children and adults alike! We had some handcrafted merchandise on sale that caught a lot of interest. Mrs Thomas absorbed the flavour of the day in a traditional white Indian suit and sportingly led the colour run. Bhangra & Bollywood classes had the little ones dancing to some popular Indian tunes & samosas became the comfort food of the day along with Pizzas and Burritos. The vibe was festive and everyone seemed to be enjoying the colourful day!

We would like to say a big thank you to the very generous support that we received for this event — including James of Wakelin & Son for providing the hot drinks on the day; Dance Fusion for putting on the Bollywood Dance Workout, Jasvinder Kaur for patiently making the Henna designs and Direct Travel UK Ltd (a Hertfordshire based transport service) for sponsoring the event! We are very grateful to these amazing local businesses. We made a profit of approx £1800 so a massive thank you to all including the parents who loaned us trestle tables & decorations and volunteers who helped with the setup, manning of stalls & tidying up after! What a beautiful memory to have, colourful at that!

### **School Disco**

After a few years of absence, we were pleased to have the school disco on 25th March and it was wonderful to see all the children come together to have a hearty dance! From funk to bling, the school hall witnessed some fun dressing and some carefree moves! Even the teachers were seen shaking a leg! Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their precious time to ensure smooth execution. The disco made £850! Whoop whoop! Now that's worth a jig!

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

And to finish off this term with a bang — we will be holding the annual Easter egg hunt in the school playgrounds at 2pm after school finishes on the last day — Friday 1st April. Children are welcome to search for their laminated eggs with their names on and swap it for some Easter treats for £1. Participation is voluntary, siblings are welcome and we request you to bring exact change.

### **Quiz Night**

The Summer Term will welcome the return of the popular SLPA Quiz Night on Friday 6th May and an elaborate Summer Picnic will conclude the events for the academic year. More details to be sent out in the next few weeks.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could spare a few hours to help us organise our upcoming events including the Summer Picnic that will require a lot of planning in advance and proper execution on ground. If you are able to volunteer, please contact us at [enquiries.slpa@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.slpa@gmail.com).

## **SLPA Lottery**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the lottery! Lottery draws are made at the end of each month and the winning cheques are delivered to the lucky recipients via their child at school. The draw for March will take place this week to ensure cheques go out before the Easter break.

## **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 three 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 receive 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

Thank you for reading!

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

## **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.

## **School Events Calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year Group</b>
Kingswood Information Evening	21.04.2022	6pm – 7pm	Year 4
IOW Information Evening	25.04.2022	6pm – 7pm	Year 6
SATS Week	09.05.2022- 13.05.2022	All Week	Year 6
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>Summer Term 2022</b>	
INSET Day*	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Start of term	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April
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*

Tracy Thomas  
Headteacher