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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

NEWSLETTER

No. 2 October 2022

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 parent 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.

Harvest Festival

Years 3 & 4 produced a memorable Harvest performance at Christ Church, Hitchin on Friday 21 October. A group of Year 3 string players opened the afternoon with an arrangement of Vivaldi's Autumn (Four Seasons). The singers had prepared 10 songs, performed from memory. The songs (including one in Bulgarian!), alongside readings and poetry considered the importance of giving thanks for what we have in our relatively prosperous lives, as well as considering the impact of climate change alongside ways in which we can help those less fortunate than ourselves. The Year 3/4 choir sang with great joy and energy, supported by a professional trio of piano, drums and bass.

Uniform



Please could long hair be tied up; 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 a notification whenever there is a new blog to read.

Prospective Parent Meetings

Reception Class 2023

Your child can start in Reception class in the September following their 4th birthday. Applications for Reception 2023 must be submitted to Herts County Council by 15th January 2023.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Schools-and-education/School-admissions/School-admissions-and-transport.aspx>

Prospective parents are welcome to join the Headteacher to visit the school on the following dates. Places are by appointment only. To book your appointment please either telephone the school office on 01462 456737 or email admin@samlucas.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you.

Visit dates available are:

Tuesday 8th November 2022	9.30am	Thursday 17 th November 2022	2.00pm
Wednesday 9 th November 2022	2.00pm	Thursday 24 th November 2022	2.00pm
Monday 14 th November 2022	9.30am		

Applying for a Secondary School Place

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



Reading Corner

National Poetry Day

It was wonderful to see the variety of learning that took place on National Poetry Day under the theme of The Environment. From circle poems to class poems to autumn walks to inspire, our talented pupils produced and shared ideas that have formed an inspirational library display and a project book that any library visitors can browse!

Dictionary update

We have just taken a delivery for sets of dictionaries for each class that are more user friendly as children get to grips with how to use these effectively.

THE LUCAS LIFE- OUR BRAND NEW SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

We are thrilled to see the first publication of our pupil - led school newspaper which has been distributed to all classrooms this week. Mrs Hughes is incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment of all members of the newspaper club who worked tirelessly this half term to create it.

The newspaper will be published half termly with the next edition taking on a festive focus.



Attendance

Well done to **Oak class** for having the highest attendance in October!



ATTENDANCE – October 2022

Lilac	94.6%	Ash	98.7%
Willow	92.8%	Larch	98.3%
Hazel	96.8%	Pine	97.3%
Birch	96.6%	Walnut	96.8%
Hawthorn	96.4%	Maple	98.0%
Oak	98.8%	Beech	94.9%
Elm	95.2%	Spruce	94.2%

Please remember, holidays within term time will **not** be authorised.

Musical Instrument Donation

Members of three Hertfordshire choirs (Hertfordshire Chorus, The Hardyngs Choir, and Dacorum Community Choir) have recently donated a number of keyboards to the school. This will enable many more pianists to join the instrumental groups at Samuel Lucas. As a school, we are always grateful to receive donations of instruments which are no longer being used. Please do contact the office if you might be able to support our music making in this way. The first of these keyboards arrived in a somewhat unusual way...



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 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 for pupils in Year 3 and above. Please contact Musicale via email 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.

Black History Month

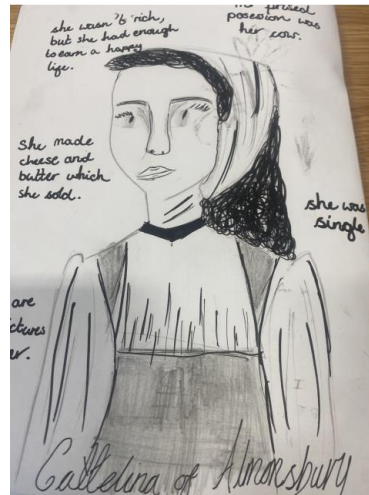
October is Black History month and we have been learning a lot in school. All children were fortunate to have an assembly from Mrs Cyrus (School Governor) where we learnt about significant British Black people in History. This included John Blanke, Jacques Francis and Cattelina of Almondsbury. This assembly was explored in lessons and other classes have explored Black History months in Art, History and writing. Showing their dedication and love of the subject, History club (KS2) have worked collaboratively to produce projects linked to Black History and have researched John Blanke, Jacques Francis, Mohammed Ali, Mary Seacole and Cattelina of Almondsbury.

Here is a selection of our work and some photos of when Mrs Cyrus visited history to inspire the projects.

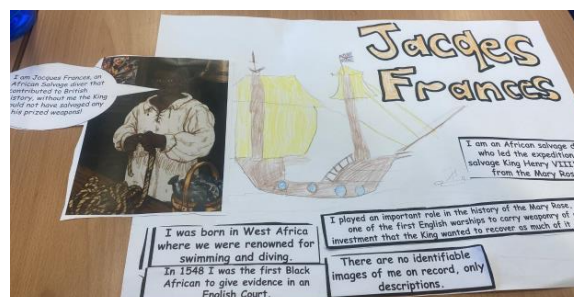


Photo of History Club discussion about importance of Black History.

Observational drawing of Cattelina of Almondsbury from Ellie Year 6



Project about Jacques Frances Arlo, Year 3



Sports Update

Intra-House Football Results

Year 3 Winners – Murray 17 points

Year 4 Winners – Pendleton 20 points

Year 5 Winners – MacArthur 17 points

Year 6 Winners – Brownlee/Farah 11 points

Congratulations to MacArthur and Brownlee who are our overall house football winners with 46 points!



School Sport

Girls Football Team Friendly Result:

Highover 2-3 Samuel Lucas (Izzy x2, Sadie)

Player of the Match: Sadie

Football League Result:

Breachwood Green 0-7 Samuel Lucas (Eknaam x2, Jacob, Dylan, Zac, Frank x2)

Netball League Result:

William Ransom 2-6 Samuel Lucas (Etrit x 3, Ellie x2, Alex).

Netball Friendly Result:

William Ransom 5-8 Samuel Lucas

Netball League Result:

Samuel Lucas 10-0 Weston

A Team Football Wix Cup 1st Round Result:

St.Andrews 0-10 Samuel Lucas

Football Friendly Results:

Whitehill 0-0 Samuel Lucas Reds

Whitehill 1-2 Samuel Lucas Blacks

We finish the half term with two netball matches at against Whitehill. A huge well done to all of the children who have represented the school this half term - you have been fantastic!

Tag Rugby Festivals:

Two teams of players from Year 6 and one team of players from Year 4 attended two separate Tag Rugby Festivals this week (October 3rd) hosted by the North Herts Schools Sports Partnership and Saracens Rugby.

It was a great opportunity for the children to showcase their rugby skills from our lunchtime club against other schools. There were also lots of chances to demonstrate some key values such as teamwork, respect, resilience and determination.

Both year groups had brilliant days and represented the school in the correct manner. Well done everyone!



Mr Smith.

MARKING WORLD POLIO DAY

We are pleased to be supporting The Hitchin Priory Rotary Club in their campaign towards raising awareness about the need to continue working to eradicate polio around the world. To do this a mini lunchtime gardening club will be planting 250 crocus bulbs next month in the grounds of the school. These have been provided by The Rotary Club. We look forward to seeing them bloom in the Spring. Please click on the link below to find out more about this important campaign.

<https://www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day>

A Note from the SLPA

Last week has been quite insightful for the SLPA as the core committee had come into action last year and we got an opportunity at the AGM to report our experiences. The Annual General Meeting was held on October 12th where we discussed the year gone by, presented a summary of the accounts, highlighted achievements & concerns, listed school donations and appointed a new secretary Emma-Bailey Easdon who we heartily welcome aboard! It was a productive hour indeed and we are happy to announce that we raised almost £15000 for the school from the events last year! We thank you all for the encouragement and appreciate your contributions.

COOKIE SALE:

Friday became 'Friyay' with our Cookie Sale on 21st October that the children seemed very excited about and the parents supported wholeheartedly! We catered to specific dietary requirements too (gluten-free/ dairy free/vegan) to ensure happy faces all around! The SLPA committee along with some helpful volunteers was manning the sale stations which brought a wonderful opportunity to interact with the new Reception parents and introduce ourselves. It indeed was a delicious way to welcome the half-term.

SLPA LOTTERY:

The lottery is such a great no effort earner for the SLPA to enrich our children's learning. The SLPA lottery ticket is £12 at the start of September which gets you into 14 draws — 12 monthly and fabulous bonus draws for Christmas and summer! It will be £11 now as September draw is already done. There is a winner and runner up prize each month and about half the profit is paid out as prizes! Your chance to win starts with a sign up! We sold 40 tickets so far with an aim to record 100 sales this month itself so we need your inputs to make this a successful activity! Pls get in touch with us for lottery forms 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 15th 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 aims to show our support for Ukraine via our two-toned blue and yellow star bau-bles, a paper template for which will be shared soon for a fun decorating attempt with your child. Keep an eye out for the instructions via ParentMail! Please ensure the decorated stars are back in the school office by 25th November so we can make a winning tree with an important message attached! You also have your Christmas gift orders to look forward to along with the popular tea towels that make memorable gifts for friends and family! In addition to Santa Canta, the children will continue to enjoy the SLPA funded afternoon with snacks and we will be holding the SLPA Break the Rules Day that gets kids super enthusiastic!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We urge you to be involved in all SLPA happenings, events and volunteering opportunities so you too can be a proud part of our children's learning. We welcome new fundraising and execution ideas so please feel free to connect with us on enquiries.slpa@gmail.com A little bit of your time will go a long way for your child! So please come forth and volunteer for the various events and activities planned for the year ahead. We will soon be sending a QR code that you can scan and register your interest in either leading an event or helping out in preferred time slots. We appreciate your support!

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
Flu Vaccinations	31.10.2022	8.30am-3pm	All Years
Anti-Bullying Week	W/c 14.11.2022	All Week	All Years
Individual Photos	16.11.2022	All Day	All Years
Children in Need	18.11.2022	All Day	All Years
Class Outcomes	30.11.2022	4pm-6m	All Years
Flu Vaccinations Session 2	01.12.2022	Morning	All Years
Christmas Service	09.12.2022	TBC	Years 5 & 6
Christmas Performance	12.12.2022	9.20am	Year 2
Christmas Performance	12.12.2022	2.30pm	Year 1
Nativity	15.12.2022	2.30pm	Reception
Feeling Good Week	W/c 06.02.2023	All Week	All Years
World Book Day	02.03.2023	All Day	All Years
Parents Evening	08.03.2023	5pm-8pm	R, Yr 2, Yr 6
Parents Evening	09.03.2023	4pm-7pm	R, Yr 2, Yr 6
Science Week	W/c 13.03.2023	All Week	All Years

Class Photos	15.03.2023	All Day	All Years
Red Nose Day	17.03.2023	All Day	All Years
SATS Week	W/c 08.05.2023	All Week	All Years
Kingswood Trip	10.05.2023- 12.05.2023	3 Days	Year 4
Isle of Wight Residential Trip	W/c 15.05.2023	All Week	Year 6
PE Week	W/c 19.06.2023	All Week	All Years
Parents Evening	21.06.2023	5pm-8pm	Y1,3,4,5
Parents Evening	22.06.2023	4pm-7pm	Y1,3,4,5
Sports Day	27.06.2023	9.30-11.30am 1.30-3pm	KS2 KS1 & Reception
Sports Day <u>Reserve</u>	04.07.2023	9.30-11.30am 1.30-3pm	KS2 KS1 & Reception
Open Evening	05.07.2023	TBC	All Years
Transition Day	13.07.2023		All Years

Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term

Half-Term break Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October

Occasional Day* Friday 25th November

Term Ends at 2pm Wednesday 21st December

Spring Term

Start of term Thursday 5th January

Half-Term break Monday 13th – Friday 17th February

Term Ends at 2pm Friday 31st March

Summer Term

INSET Day* Monday 17th April

Summer Term

Start of term	Tuesday 18th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Half-Term break	Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Term Ends 2pm	Wednesday 19th July
INSET Day*	Thursday 20th July
INSET Day*	Friday 21st July

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

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Thomas
Headteacher