



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. 3 November 2022

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see so many of you last night at our end of term outcome evening. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning with you as well as having the opportunity to visit all the classes. Thank you.

The children are practising their Christmas performances which will be performed to parents. Please see performance dates and time and the bottom of the newsletter alternatively you can visit our website for more information.

Staffing

This term we have said a sad goodbye to Mrs French who has worked at Samuel Lucas for 13 years. I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best for the future. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Farnell back from maternity leave.

Children in Need

Samuel Lucas took part in raising money for Children in Need on Friday 18th November. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their bright and/ or spotty clothes. We have raised £723.50. Thank you.



Harvest Festival

Samuel Lucas took part in raising money for the Letchworth Food Bank. In total we raised £600.90. Thank you.

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.

Now the weather is getting colder please ensure your child brings in their coats and hats each day.

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 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>



English in the Spotlight

Reading at home

It has been excellent to see so many pupils achieving their 5 star reads this half term. Thank you for your support at home with this.

It is also wonderful to hear how many year 5 children are completing their reading challenges at home – well done to you all!

Local bookstores

A little reminder to shop local this Christmas if you can. There are two wonderful local bookshops who have an excellent range of books, comic books, games that make lovely Christmas gifts. If you shop at Next Page Books don't forget to support our school – speak to the bookshop for how you can do this.

Christmas Clear Outs

It might be the time of year where you are de-cluttering your bookshelves! If your child is ready to part with a book or two and you wish to donate it to our school library we always appreciate well-cared for books. We would particularly love more copies of books by Roald Dahl, Cressida Cowell, David Walliams, Chris Riddell, Emma Carroll, JK Rowling, Julia Donaldson, Phillip Pullman, Joseph Coelho, Malorie Blackman and Jacqueline Wilson. Please drop off at the school office. We request that books are in good condition and are absent of children's names.

Thanks in advance.



Attendance

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



ATTENDANCE – November 2022			
Lilac	95.2%	Ash	96.7%
Willow	94.2%	Larch	97.1%
Hazel	97.1%	Pine	97.4%
Birch	95.2%	Walnut	96.7%
Hawthorn	96.5%	Maple	98.0%
Oak	98.1%	Beech	95.6%
Elm	95.4%	Spruce	93.6%

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

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.

Hello Samuel Lucas Scientists,

In Science STEM club, we will take part in a range of investigations using everyday items to explore concepts in science, technology, engineering and maths. The practical activities encourage our scientists to predict what might happen, learn science vocabulary and discover new things! Science club aims to encourage enquiring minds and nurture interests in science. The club runs for each half term before the next year group scientists swap over.

Years 3 and 4 Science club scientists are:

Sophia

Peggy

Mae

Aiden

Iris

Alfie

Joseph

Tamzin



In our first science club, we investigated how mazes look and design our own to make.

We look forward to sharing our investigations with you!

Miss Mai

Sports Update

We have had a very busy return to everything PESSPA following the half term break.

PE

Reception - Have continued their fantastic start to PE at Samuel Lucas where their confidence continues to grow week by week. We are focusing on our fundamental skills with an emphasis on balance, co-ordination, jumping, landing, and object control and core strength in the first lessons back.

Years 1 and 2 have begun work on Ball Skills (Hands) unit. So far we have learnt about bouncing/dribbling, control, navigating space and passing/receiving.

Year 3, Year 4 (Pine), Year 5 and Year 6 have begun work on a unit of work that focuses on Communication and Tactics. We are learning about teamwork and leadership in the early lessons through a series of well-known games/activities.

Year 4 (Larch) are still working through their Basketball unit which runs alongside their swimming lessons. We have been combining attacking skills as well as introducing shooting to our learning.

Physical Activity

Enrichment continues on a Friday with table tennis, speed stacking and quidditch featuring so far this half term!

School Sport

Wednesday 2nd November

A Team Netball

Samuel Lucas 4-4 Our Lady

The netballers have finished their fixtures for the winter break with 3 wins and a draw. Well done all!

B Team Netball

Samuel Lucas 2-4 Our Lady

A very close match in the end with some of our children representing the school in a Netball fixture for the first time! It was great to see them demonstrate their skills from Netball club and show their continued understanding of different positions. Well done everyone!

Thursday 3rd November

Our Year 6 mixed Basketball team competed in the North Herts Sports Partnership tournament at Highfield School. The team showed excellent skill, teamwork and encouragement to come together and win all 5 matches. They will now represent North Herts at the county finals at the end of November!



Friday 4th November

A Team Football League

Samuel Lucas 7-1 Oughton

Player of the match: Izzy for two well taken goals and two assists.

Monday 7th November

Large Schools ESFA Tournament

Our footballers competed against other large schools from Hitchin in a round robin tournament on Monday afternoon.

Results:

Samuel Lucas 1-0 William Ransom

Samuel Lucas 4-0 Highover

Samuel Lucas 1-0 Whitehill

Samuel Lucas 0-0 Our Lady

The team finished unbeaten without conceding and will now represent Hitchin at the county round in Watford!

Tuesday 8th November

Girls Football Wix Cup Quarter Final

Samuel Lucas 5-1 Wilshire Dacre

Goals: Izzy x 3, Violet and Esme

Player of the match: Violet for a well taken goal and fantastic dribbling, passing and effort.

Wednesday 9th November

A Team Football Wix Cup Quarter Final

Our Lady 1-2 Samuel Lucas

Goals: Dylan and Izzy

Player of the match: Tom for a fantastic goalkeeping display including two superb saves.

Friday 11th November

Girls B Team Football Fixture

Samuel Lucas 1 - 2 Whitehill

Goal: Amelia

This was a really well matched game between two sets of girls, with many representing their schools in a football match for the first time.

Wednesday 16th November

Rapid Fire Cricket Tournament

A team of Year 4 children competed in the NHSSP U9 Rapid Fire Cricket event in Letchworth. The team played seven matches demonstrating their skills from our lunchtime club. Four wins and three defeats meant the team finished in 3rd place overall. A huge well done to Ethan, Avi, Thomas, Harry, Ariel, Ella, Izzy and Elsie for your excellent teamwork and performances throughout the afternoon.

Tuesday 22nd November

B Team Football fixture

Samuel Lucas 2-1 Wilshire Dacre

Goals: Toren and Etrit

Wednesday 23rd November

Girls ESFA Tournament

Our footballers competed against other girls' teams from Hitchin in a tournament on Wednesday afternoon.

Group Results:

Samuel Lucas 3-0 St.Andrews
Samuel Lucas 1-1 St.Ippolyts
Samuel Lucas 2-0 William Ransom

The results in the group meant a final with Highover. Izzy scored a well taken goal to put us ahead and with the clock ticking down Highover equalised with the last kick of the game to send the match to a penalty shootout.

It's always a horrible way to decide a game and it takes lots of courage to step up and take a penalty for the team. Two saves from Othelia and some well taken penalties meant the team won the shootout and will now also go to Watford to represent Hitchin at the county round!

A huge well done to all of the children who have represented the school so far this term, I have been really impressed by your performances but more importantly by your teamwork, effort, determination and sportsmanship.

Cross Country

Thursday 10th November 2022

Children from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Knights Templar School last Thursday to participate in the NHSSP Cross Country event. We were all really excited, especially as this is the first time the event has taken place in 3 years.

All of the children attend running club on a Friday morning with Mrs Thomas, Mrs Thrussell and Mrs Cook. They have been working really hard to improve their stamina, pacing and strong finishes. All runners had a walk-through of the course, before the first race was called. The races and teams were as follows:

Year 6 Boys (Frank, George, Marley and Dylan)
Year 6 Girls (Eva, Lauren, Esme and Alice)
Year 5 Boys (Oliver, Thomas, Max and Max)
Year 5 Girls (Violet, Isabella, Orlagh and Jessica).

We are so proud of every single one of our runners - their effort, enthusiasm and determination was fantastic so thank you for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Special mentions must go to George (Y6) - 7th place, Frank (Y6) - 11th place, Eva (Y6) - 12th, Isabella (Y5) - 11th and Violet (Y5) who finished in 1st place!

The combined girls team places meant they finished in 1st overall in the Year 5 Girls category!

Keep up the good work!

Mr Smith.

A Note from the SLPA

What a productive few weeks we've had! Thank you to all the parents & carers for their much needed support. Here is a glimpse of the month gone by and our festive plans for December:-

BAG2SCHOOL

Bag2School collection was executed on 15th November where we had the opportunity to donate unwanted items and clothing — a fun, free and easy way to raise funds where the school gets paid for the total weight collected. We are happy to report that we made £192 this term— an encouraging progress from July's attempt of £148!

SLPA LOTTERY:

Congratulation to our October winners who wish to remain anonymous and a big thank you to all those who bought the lottery tickets taking the numbers up from 35 to 74! The November draw will be out this week so keep an eye out for the winning ticket! The lottery is such a great no effort earner for the SLPA to enrich our children's learning so we urge all interested parents to consider purchasing the ticket before the December draw which has a bonus draw for Christmas! How exciting! Remember, your chance to win starts with a sign up! So, please get in touch with Caz Scott for the lottery forms, collect them from the school office or email the SLPA at enquiries.slpa@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Although an elaborate Winter Fayre is off the cards this year owing to logistical reasons, we have planned some fun activities to celebrate in a joyful and exuberant way! Thank you to those who ordered their APFS Christmas cards and Tea Towels and helped with the fundraiser. We are super excited to share that the tea towels made just over £2000! The products should be with you soon and we hope your chosen personalisation makes for some memorable gifting moments!

We shall kickstart the festivities this Friday 2nd December with our **Christmas pop-up stall** selling some Christmas mugs, decorations, trinkets and refreshing chocolate milk for the little minds! So come along to the KS1 playground after school (3pm- 3.30pm) and show us some festive love as you slurp!

The much awaited **Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival** is on 10th & 11th December at the Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Road. Samuel Lucas has kept its participation tradition on with a hopeful theme this year "*A Ukranian Prayer*" and the blue/yellow stars creatively made by your children aim to become a symbol of support & solidarity. We have some stunning pieces in there and truly appreciate your time and effort! Do visit and show your support please! We were first runner up last year so secretly eyeing the first place this year. Keeping in line with the theme, for now we can safely say that "*All that glitters is Hope!*"

Santa Canta (the Christmas themed daily mile run) is on 14th December so get those festive jumpers ready! A dedicated **film afternoon** will be held between 19th-21st December complete with squash and crisps and the notoriously fun **Break the Rules Day** is on December 21st — the last day of term. Santa may want your kids to be nice but SLPA encourages the naughtiness on this day! The more they break, the more we make as there is a fine for each broken rule! As always, you will be able to pay your donations via Parentmail towards these activities on the day.

SCHOOL DISCO

2023 is approaching too fast so best to give you a heads up on the school disco scheduled for 20th January for Year 1 to Year 6 students. This will take place after school over three different time slots. Further details will be shared closer to the time but get the funky, jazzy, glittery costumes ready for some much deserved party time!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the Christmas Tree Festival to put up the tree on Thursday, 8th Dec 6-8pm and for taking it down on Monday, 12th Dec between 9am - 1pm. Please let the SLPA know if you could assist with either of those. 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

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, 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 fabulous December ahead!

The SLPA

School Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Year Group
Flu Vaccinations Session 2	01.12.2022	Morning	All Years
Christmas Service	09.12.2022	2pm	Years 5 & 6
Christmas Tree Festival - SLPA	10.12.2022 & 11.12.2022	11.45am	All Years
Christmas Performance	12.12.2022	9.20am	Year 2
Christmas Performance	12.12.2022	2.30pm	Year 1
Christmas Lunch	14.12.2022	Lunchtime	All Years
Santa Canta	14.12.2022	Various	All Years
Christmas Jumper Day	14.12.2022	All Day	All Years
Nativity	15.12.2022	2.30pm	Reception
Film Afternoon	W/c 19.12.2022	Various	All Years
Break the Rules Day	21.12.2022	All Day	All Years
Feeling Good Week	W/c 06.02.2023	All Week	All Years
School Disco	20.01.2023	TBC	TBC

Cookie Sale	10.02.2023	3.15pm	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
Holi Festival Colour Run	18.03.2023	AM	All Years
Easter Egg Hunt	31.03.2023	3.15pm	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
Break the Rules Day	26.05.2023	All Day	All Years
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
Summer Party - SLPA	14.07.2023	TBC	All Welcome

Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term

Term Ends at 2pm

Wednesday 21st December

Spring Term

Start of term

Thursday 5th January

Spring Term

Half-Term break	Monday 13th – Friday 17th February
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Term Ends at 2pm	Friday 31st March
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Summer Term

INSET Day*	Monday 17th April
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Start of term	Tuesday 18th April
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Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
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Bank Holiday	Monday 8 th May
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Half-Term break	Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
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Term Ends 2pm	Wednesday 19th July
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INSET Day*	Thursday 20th July
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INSET Day*	Friday 21st July
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*Children do not attend school on INSET Days or on the OCCASIONAL day

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Thomas
Headteacher