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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

## NEWSLETTER

No. 4 December 2022



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy in school. The children have performed their carol concert and Christmas productions, thank you to all the parents that were able to attend. 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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents and staff for all their support and hard work. We have an amazing Samuel Lucas community and I wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas.



### Staffing

This term we have said a sad goodbye to Miss Wakefield. I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best for the future. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Butterworth back from maternity leave.



## 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 colder please ensure your child brings in their coats and hats each day.

## School Website

The school website can be found at

[www.sam-lucas.herts.sch.uk](http://www.sam-lucas.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>

## Attendance

Well done to **Maple class** for having the highest attendance in December!



### ATTENDANCE – December 2022

Lilac	94.2%	Ash	95.5%
Willow	93.7%	Larch	96.6%
Hazel	96.1%	Pine	97.0%
Birch	94.8%	Walnut	95.7%
Hawthorn	96.1%	Maple	97.1%
Oak	96.8%	Beech	95.0%
Elm	94.3%	Spruce	93.2%

*Our percentages are slightly lower than expected due to lots of illness this term.*

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



# Reading Corner

## School Newsletter English Update

What a wonderful Autumn Term of English at Samuel Lucas! We began the term with a real focus on handwriting and we have seen this make a real difference to pupils writing stamina and presentation in their written work. We have seen our book stock updated in the library and across classrooms and are incredibly grateful for the donations of magazines and books to enhance this. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this.

Our school reading ambassadors have been reading with year 2 pupils every week – providing bonus story times over the lunch break. This will be opened up to year 1 pupils in the Spring Term.

Over the past 2 half terms we have seen a large number of pupils demonstrating outstanding spoken skills at the church services for Harvest and Christmas, as well as some spectacular stars in the making at the EYFS/KS1 Christmas plays.

We have also seen our second school newspaper being published and distributed around classrooms – it was brilliant to see how our enthusiastic and talented reporting team took to the challenge.

The Spring Term is always full of excitement as we head towards World Book Day, where we will continue to make links with our local bookshops and library, as well as hosting a book fayre for our pupils and their families.

There are many opportunities to enjoy inspiring and creative shows, films and books over the Christmas break so here are Mrs Hughes' top 5 holiday suggestions:

1. Watch a) The Snowman or b) The Muppets Christmas Carol and enjoy!
2. Visit Waterstones or Next Page Books or David's Book Shop and buy a book to share on Christmas Eve as a family.
3. Watch the Panto – showing in most local theatres and a great experience for children to see live drama. If not possible, there is usually a CBeebies Panto on iplayer to enjoy!
4. Spend a rainy/snowy/cold day visiting the local library – you can borrow up to 15 books to take home and enjoy!
5. If you get a new book for Christmas bring it into school in January to show your class – you might even want to write a review so others know a bit about it first!

Happy Christmas.

Mrs Hughes.



## **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](http://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](http://www.musicale.co.uk) for pupils in Year 3 and above. Please contact Musicale via email [info@musicale.co.uk](mailto: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.

## **Sports Update**

### **Physical Education**

Reception - have finished the term focusing on our core skills whilst also being introduced to skills such as aiming, throwing and rolling.

Years 1 and 2 - have finished their second ball skills unit where the focus has been on aiming, rolling and types of throw. We will be starting work on gymnastics when we return after the Christmas break.

Years 3-6 - have worked really hard at their hockey skills in the last three weeks and it was fantastic to be back at Blueharts hockey club for our Intra-House tournament. Years 3 and 5 will be starting the new term with a focus on gymnastics, whilst years 4 and 6 will be learning about communication/tactics and dance respectively.

### **School Sport**

#### **U11 Mixed Basketball County Finals**

On Wednesday (30th November) our U11 mixed basketball team made the journey to Stevenage to represent North Hertfordshire at the County Finals. This was following their success at the NHSSP event earlier in the month.

The teams were split into two groups of five with the winners of each group meeting in the final. The group stage results were as follows:

SL 16-0 Creswick

SL 2 – 6 Grove Junior

SL 18-2 Maple

#### SL 14 – 4 Hobbletts Manor

Three wins and a defeat meant the team took runners up spot in the group and would play for the bronze medal in a 3rd/4th place playoff.

A very tense and close match that could have gone either way, saw the team take victory:

SL 6-5 St.Vincent De Paul

All of the children performed brilliantly and on another day would have definitely made the final. They were the highest scoring team across the group stage and played some excellent basketball. We are all incredibly proud of you and a 3rd place finish in the whole of Hertfordshire is a huge achievement and one to be very proud of.

Well done everyone!



#### Football Result:

Samuel Lucas 4-1 Mary Exton

A team of our year 5 and 6 footballers played against their Mary Exton counterparts in a friendly at the start of December. All of the children involved played their part in a really enjoyable match.

#### Representing the School

We are delighted to have had 113 children represent the school in a fixture or event of some kind this term. With lots more in the diary for the spring and summer terms we look forward to more children having the same opportunity.

Well done to all of our children for their effort, attitude and enthusiasm this term in PE, physical activity and School Sport you have been a real credit to our school.

Hope you all enjoy the Christmas break!

Mr Smith



## A NOTE FROM THE SLPA

The much awaited festive period is upon us and what a wonderful celebration we've had leading up to it! Thank you to all the parents & carers for their much needed support. Here are some highlights:-

### Hitchin Tree Festival



Whoop Whoop! We can't contain our excitement at Samuel Lucas bagging first position at the **Hitchin Tree Festival** that was held on 10th & 11th December at the Holy Saviour Church. Our heartwarming theme this year — '*A Ukrainian Prayer*' — was placed first in the *Primary school Children's Class* and also came first in the *Visitor's Vote* category! Our tree sure looked bright and hopeful with its glistening blue and yellow stars creatively designed by the school children. We were truly amazed at the efforts put in by everyone in



sticking to the theme. So, thank you to all the parents for encouraging their children to contribute and to all the volunteers who helped set the tree up and take it down (braving it on snow day!) A special shout out to Jennifer Levesley, SLPA's Finance Officer, for suggesting this year's theme and executing it brilliantly — complete with the stunning sunflower tree topper depicting Ukraine's national flower. We hope you had a chance to visit the festival and witness our spectacular entry with your families. We hear a Ukrainian family that was taken in by one of the church neighbours was overwhelmed on seeing such support and solidarity. Hope makes the world go round indeed! The stars were returned to their respective creators so check the school bags for those to add to your tree decorations at home!

### CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

We are super excited to share that the Tea Towels and Coasters made a handsome £2300! We hope you were pleased with your chosen personalisation that are sure to add proud smiles to your gifting moments!



The '**Shop & Slurp**' Christmas pop-up stall held on 2nd December kick started the festivities selling some Christmas mugs, decorations and trinkets generously donated to the SLPA by 'Artisan Mum' Chantal Craig who supported us on the day too! We made £122 selling refreshing chocolate milk alongside so thanks to our star volunteers for their assistance! Our activity got the right buzz with this vibrant poster (left) created by Jennie Wakelin that did the rounds on Parentmail and class WhatsApp groups! Every contribution helps and we are grateful for all your inputs!

**Santa Canta** — the Christmas themed daily mile run — was on 14th December and a dedicated **film afternoon** was held between 19th-21st December complete with squash and crisps that the children thoroughly enjoyed. The last day of term witnessed the notoriously fun **Break the Rules Day** where

naughty became the new nice! After all, the more they break, the more we make so please pay your donations via Parentmail towards these activities if you haven't already!

### **SLPA LOTTERY:**

What an exciting end to 2022 for some lucky parents, courtesy The SLPA Lottery! Congratulations to Kirsty Berry who won first prize in November and an anonymous winner from Larch who came second. Congratulations also to Mellissa Roe who came first in December's draw and Nicola Cross who came second. wow Wow WOW to Laura Clarke who came first for the BUMPER BONUS Xmas draw!!!

Thank you again to all the parents who have bought tickets to help the SLPA fundraiser for our children. 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 for 2023. You can buy discounted tickets at £8 to be in all the 2023 draws, including the bumper Summer Draw! Remember, your chance to win starts with a sign up! Forms are available in the school office and can be left in the SLPA box.

### **SCHOOL DISCO**

2023 is around the corner and we are all set to welcome it with 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 school disco on 20th January after school to manage the disco, prepping the snack, face painting, tattoos, entry & exit checks etc. The payment link will have volunteering options as well so please come forth and lend a hand.

We urge you to be involved in 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 pls feel free to connect with us on [enquiries.slpa@gmail.com](mailto: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, 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

### **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 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2023!

The SLPA

**School Events Calendar**

Event	Date	Time	Year Group
School Disco	20.01.2023	TBC	Year 1-6
Parent Forum	30.01.2023	2pm	Representatives – All
Feeling Good Week	W/c 06.02.2023	All Week	All Years
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**

### 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
Start of term	Tuesday 18th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Bank Holiday	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> 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