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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

NEWSLETTER

No. 6 April 2023

Dear Parents,

As we have come to the end of the Spring term at Samuel Lucas, it is a time for celebration and reflection. The reflection undoubtedly will bring mixed emotions as we say goodbye to our amazing Headteacher Mrs Thomas, who has decided it is time to retire.

She is retiring after working at Samuel Lucas for 21 years. She was employed firstly to be the school's Deputy Headteacher then in 2010 she became our Headteacher. Mrs Thomas has made a huge difference in so many children's lives. She will be sadly missed by the children, staff and Samuel Lucas community. However she will always be remembered.



I am sure you would all like to join us in wishing her Happy Retirement!

We also say goodbye Mrs Du Fou; we wish her the best of luck in her new job. After Easter we welcome Samuel Lucas School's new Headteacher Mrs Brind. We look forward to working with her and welcoming her into the school community.

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.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.

Attendance

Well done to **Ash class** for having the highest attendance in March!



ATTENDANCE – March 2023			
Lilac	95.2%	Ash	97.3%
Willow	94.6%	Larch	96.5%
Hazel	94.5%	Pine	95.5%
Birch	95.9%	Walnut	95.3%
Hawthorn	96.4%	Maple	96.3%
Oak	96.2%	Beech	95.8%
Elm	95.8%	Spruce	94.0%

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

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

Charlie Chicks

Thank you to all those who bought a Charlie Chick (with a hidden surprise). As a school we managed to raise **£168** for the Garden House Hospice.

Red Nose Day



On Friday 17th March children took part in our non-uniform day and wore red to raise money for Comic Relief. The school raised **£544.80**.

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.

Science Club

Hello Samuel Lucas Scientists,

What a wonderful Science week we had this term! This year's theme was Connections in our world. Samuel Lucas Scientists have explored how many things in our world have links to each other and participated in investigations about nature, fingerprints, creating paper bridges to see how could make the most secure bridge, connections in our body with our organs, created inventions, ecosystem and threats to our ecosystems as well as the connection from where our food comes from to our plates.

Thank you everyone for participating in another fun, successful science week!

Well done to our KS1 and KS2 Zoomed in competition winners:

Emma - Year 1 Birch

Lucy - Year 3 Ash

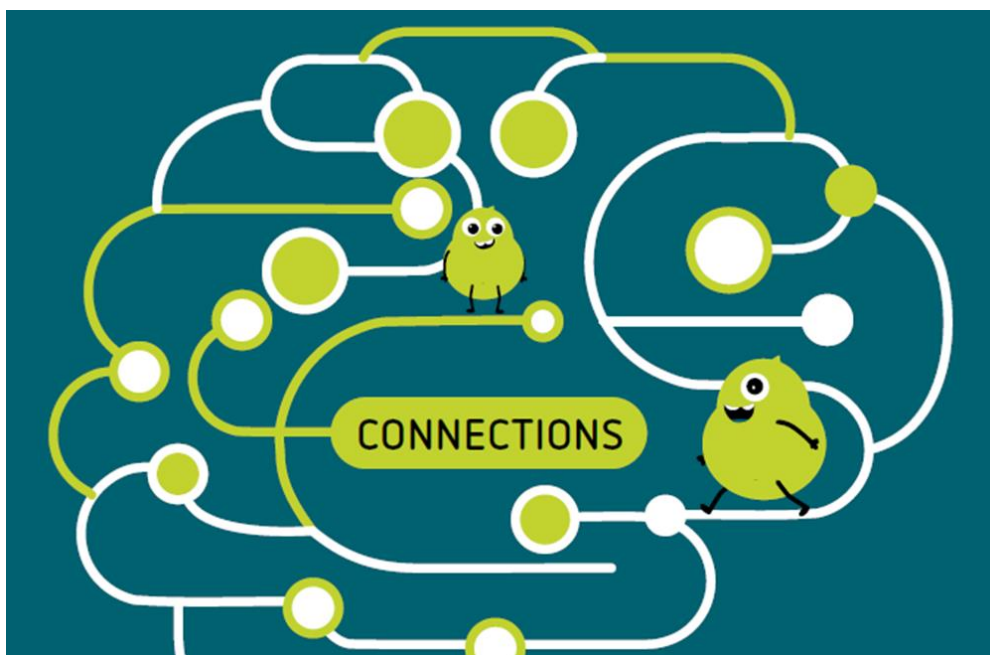
Science fact:

Your heart beats over 100,000 times per day.

Science club will be open to year 5 and 6 children in Summer 1 then EYFS in Summer 2 term.

Have a great Easter!

Miss Mai



Sports Update

Physical Education

EYFS – We continue to develop our fundamental movements in PE and in the past few weeks have introduced the concept of object control to the children. This has included using equipment such as rackets, bats, table tennis paddles, noodles, tennis balls, bean bags, balloons, table tennis balls and scarves.

Year 1 – After finishing our gymnastics unit (which finished with including some Year 2 work around linking) we have started our new topic of dance. The theme for dance is zoo animals which links with the children's animal work across the curriculum in Art, Science, English and Geography. We have created movements for big and small animals as well as looking at expression and forming a sequence.

Year 2 – Following the completion of our gymnastics work on pathways, Year 2 have also started their dance work in PE. The theme is Explorers which has included creating movements for our journey, explorer and animals, working in canon/unison with a partner, maintaining a character and using emotion and expression in our sequences.

Year 3 – Have also been working through a unit of dance which is weather themed. We have created movements for thunderstorms, extreme weather and a day at the beach so far whilst exploring timing our movements to the music and how we can add drama to our sequences.

Year 4 – We have completed our dance unit which was themed around space and the interaction between an astronaut and an alien. The children have now started working on their tennis skills where we are looking at developing our forehand technique.

Year 5 – Have finished their dance unit which was themed around the Greeks and the ancient Olympics. We have now started Orienteering which will enable us to develop our map reading and route planning skills along with skills such as resilience, teamwork and determination.

Year 6 – We have finished our gymnastics work which focused on matching and mirroring balances, shapes, movements and sequences. The children have now started working on a unit of tennis where we are recapping our skills and knowledge from year 5 with a series of mini games that also consolidate our knowledge of scoring and umpiring.

School Sport

Football – we have had a variety of fixtures across the half term with year 5 and 6 fixtures against Whitehill, St.Mary's juniors and year 4 fixtures against Mary Exton. Lots of children representing the school in the correct manner and enjoying playing football.

Well done to our A team footballers who have won every league game this season finishing in 1st place and will play in the League Playoff final after Easter to determine the overall winner.

The A and B end of season rallies were unfortunately postponed due to the recent wet weather and we are awaiting rescheduled dates.

Netball – the Netball league has finished with fixtures against St.Andrews where the children persisted well in two tough fixtures. We are awaiting the final league table to see where we have finished. The end of season rallies were unfortunately postponed and rescheduled for after Easter. A special thank you must go to Mrs.McNish for all of her support and help coaching the children and umpiring matches this year.

Football – Wix Cup/Girls End of Season Rally

We had mixed fortunes in the two Wix cup finals which were played in the past few weeks.

A team – William Ransom 3-0 Samuel Lucas

The team suffered their first defeat in what has been a brilliant season for them. Unfortunately three goals conceded in a strange five minute spell in the first half left the team with too much to do in the second half. They battled away valiantly and were unlucky not to score but full credit to William Ransom for a very good performance and well deserved victory.

Girls Football

Wow – what a 24 hours for our girl's football team!

On Friday evening (17th March) we travelled to Highover for the Girls Wix Cup Final. Having already faced them twice this season we knew it was going to be a tough, tense and exciting game and this occasion proved to be no different.

In a very nervy and end to end game the girls set out to play and compete in the manner they have all year. They were hard working, showed resilience and determination when they had to through some solid defending and took the opportunities to play the football they have played all year.

With the clock ticking down (4 minutes left) the ball got played through to Izzy who managed to slot home past the Highover goalkeeper. With time running out and the nerves increasing, the ball got played to Esme in the box who shot past the keeper and into the net for 2-0 and the trophy!

We now travel to Colney Heath FC in May as Hitchin's representative where we will play all of the county's Wix trophy winners.

Following on from the excitement of Friday's final, we were at Wilshire Dacre School on Saturday morning (18th) for the HDPSFA end of season tournament. We were placed in a strong looking group and the results were as follows:

SL 0-0 St Andrews

SL 7-0 Purwell

SL 3-0 Whitehill

SL 2-1 Ickleford

This meant the team topped the group with 10 points and a place in the semi-final against Highover who we had faced the previous evening. Another end to end and tightly contested game finished with a 2-1 victory the highlight being a wonderful free kick from Izzy.

Hosts Wilshire Dacre were our opponents in the final and the constant rain throughout the morning had left the pitches looking more like mud baths! However the girls showed the determination and perseverance that they had showed all season and came away with a 1-0 victory to take their second trophy in under 24 hours!

It has been a real joy working with these girls this year – they are hardworking, keen to learn and certainly keep me on my toes (especially with kit fashion!). They deserve all the success they have had – three trophies in a season is a wonderful achievement and I am sure they will give it their best shot at Colney Heath in May.

Well done girls!



Sportshall Athletics – District Finals

Following on from the local heats in January both our boys and girls indoor athletics teams travelled to Highfield for the District Finals. The event is always highly competitive and our children should be really proud of how they competed throughout the afternoon, with some excellent performances in a range of individual and team events. Both teams finished in 4th place overall. Well done everyone involved!



U9 NHSSP Badminton



Well done to our Year 4 children who represented the school in the recent NHSSP Badminton event in association with England Badminton. They moved their way around ten skill based activities where we learnt about and were challenged in a range of skills.

For any children (Year 4 or otherwise) who are interested in taking up badminton please see local club details below:

- Baldock Junior Badminton Club– based at Knights Templar Sports Centre where the festival took place for age 6 upwards (on Saturdays). Contact details: bob@abcegg.co.uk.
- SmashIt Sports Ltd – Sessions run in Letchworth & Hitchin on various days. Contact details: smashittclub@gmail.com or 07913 703996.

U11 NHSSP Hockey Festival and Competition

29 children from Years 5 and 6 made the short journey to Blueharts Hockey Club on Tuesday (29th March) to compete with local schools from the North Herts District.

Festival

The rain was constant and didn't make for the best conditions but the children played some fantastic hockey throughout the morning, putting their skills from PE lessons and afterschool club into practice. There was some excellent attacking and defending combined with great moments of passing, dribbling and shooting. The children also showed fantastic resilience and determination to keep playing in the wet weather. A big well done to all involved!

Competition

In the afternoon we returned with two teams to participate in the competition with our Reds and Blacks. Both teams played some wonderful hockey throughout the afternoon especially when faced with playing each other in the final match!

SL Blacks – P7 W3 D0 L4 – 9 Pts – 4th Position

SL Reds – P7 W7 D0 L0 – 21 Pts – 1st Position

A 1st place finish for our Reds meant they finished the afternoon as District Champions and will represent North Herts at the County Finals in May!

A huge well done to all of the children involved and a special thank you to Mrs. Wright for all of her help and support coaching the children this year.



Well done to all of our children this term for their excellent application in everything PE, School Sport and Physical Activity. With Sports week and Sports day to come in the summer term there is lots to look forward to!

Mr Smith

Kings Coronation

On Friday 5th May Samuel Lucas School will be celebrating the Kings Coronation with a whole school picnic and activities in class. Children are invited to wear Red, White and Blue. A menu for the picnic will be sent via Parentmail forms. Please select your lunch choice by 18th April.

A NOTE FROM THE SLPA

Thank you to all of you runners, spectators and volunteers who braved the rain a couple of weeks ago and turned out in force to help us celebrate Holi with a rather wet but still very colourful colour run. We didn't let the rain deter us or dampen our spirits and the rain seemed to make the paint stick somewhat better than last year; there were plenty of very colourful and smiling faces during the morning. Mrs Kinchin-Smith did a fantastic job of starting off both runs, thank you for giving up your Saturday morning to support us. We raised over £1,000 from the event, money which goes to improving your child's educational experience at Samuel Lucas. A special thank you also goes to Mr Penny for helping us set up and tidy away the event, your help was invaluable and much appreciated.



As ever we will finish the spring term with our annual Easter egg hunt. This always proves to be a very popular event and one that the children and their siblings enjoy. Thank you to all of those who kindly volunteered to help us set up and organise the event.

Summer picnic

Our next event will be the summer picnic on **Friday 14th July** on the school field. This is our big event of the year and is always hugely popular and our biggest fundraiser. As it is such a big event, **we need help to plan and organise it**, a task that will begin in earnest after the Easter holidays. In particular we need help planning the bar, food provision and entertainment. If you have any experience in any of these areas and could help us with your expertise please let us know by emailing enquiries.slpa@gmail.com
Thank you!

SLPA Lottery

The draws for January, February, March and April have all been made and the cheques should have made their way to the lucky winners via their child this week. Thank you to all the members who have subscribed this year.

You can join the lottery with £12 for a year's subscription. Two draws each month winning 25% and 10% of the monthly takings respectively for first and second prize. Plus the two bonus draws (winter and summer). Joining instructions will be sent out in September for the next academic year.

Amazon Smile

Sadly Amazon has announced it has discontinued it's Amazon Smile scheme, therefore we can no longer benefit from purchases you make from Amazon.

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 ID 35460

www.name-labels.com ID 17422

And finally, the SLPA would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Thomas for all her support of the SLPA over the years. From helping out at school discos, to tidying up after summer picnics, agreeing to let us throw paint on the school field, the list goes on and suffice to say we could not have done any of these fundraising events without Mrs Thomas's unwavering support. We would like to wish Mrs Thomas a very happy and relaxing retirement.

Thank you for reading!

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

School Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Year Group
SATS Week	W/c 08.05.2023	All Week	Years 2 & 6
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

Summer Term

INSET Day* Monday 17th April

Start of term Tuesday 18th April

Bank Holiday Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday Monday 8th 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,

Mrs Kinchin-Smith, Mr Burgess, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Massie, Mrs Kenny, Miss Mai & Miss Riste.

Senior Leadership Team