



St Luke's Park Newsletter (12) 13.12.2024

Liberty Way, Runwell, Essex, SS11 7LH

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Headteacher: Ms J. Kendall-Hobbs BA (Hons) PGCE MA (Ed)

Message from the Headteacher

Dear SLP Families,

Keyboard Performance

What a start to the week! Amy's keyboard students did us proud on Monday with super performances to parents. Children introduced themselves and the pieces they were going to perform, performed beautifully and then took a bow as they received their applause. It was truly wonderful to see how confident they were.

Christmas Fun!

I have been so impressed by the Christmas shows this week. EYFS and Key Stage 1 did brilliantly in their shows and have really got us into the Christmas spirit. We had a superb Christmas dinner on Wednesday – an enormous 'Thank You' to the lovely Chef Julie and PTFA 'waiting staff' for making this a really special Christmas lunch. Father Christmas came to visit on Friday which teachers tell me was really magical ... and we are excited about our Christmas party this evening! Phew!

Pantomime

A reminder that we have our pantomime trip on Monday 16th December. A big well done to staff for all of their organisation and thanks to our PTFA volunteers who have offered their time to come along to help us supervise all of the children. Children will have their lunch a little early on this day in school and the coaches will depart at 12.30pm. **The children will return to school for 4.30pm. On arrival back to school we will see the children into the building and then dismiss classes via their usual exits so that everyone is seen to a parent in an orderly way. Please do bear with us if this takes a little while.**

This year's show is Jack and The Beanstalk so if you have the opportunity to share this story with your children at the weekend please do so that they feel prepared for the appearance of a giant without feeling too worried about that!

New SENCO

It has been a real privilege to hold the combined role of headteacher and SENCO (special educational needs coordinator) over the past year and a half. Thank you to all of our families for your openness and positivity when we have shared meetings together. In response to our growing pupil numbers, we took the decision at the beginning of this term to advertise for a dedicated SENCO in order to increase our capacity to support children in our school. I am absolutely delighted to announce that our new SENCO starting with us in January. She will be in school on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Her current school community have now been told that she will be leaving so I can share a little more information from the lovely Mrs Cato!

Hello there, my name is Mrs Cato and I am really looking forward to joining the St Luke's Park community in January as your SENCO. I have twenty years' experience teaching across the primary age range and have been a SENCO in a large, busy Chelmsford school for the past ten years. I cannot wait to get to know lots of you and your children and hope that my experience and expertise will be helpful and beneficial to you. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas however you choose to celebrate it, see you in 2025!

Feagan's Forest

Miss Feagan, ably assisted by the wonderful Mrs Hart and lots of the children in Little Owls class took the first steps towards creating our school forest this week! I admit that describing it as a forest at this stage is a little premature (images later in newsletter) but we are very excited for the future of these tiny saplings. An enormous 'Thank You' to the fabulous Miss Feagan for taking advantage of the donation from The Woodland Trust and guiding the children to be a part of this stage in the development of our school's outside area. All of the children will have an opportunity to be involved in this project, either this term or into early next year.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Ms Kendall-Hobbs



Attendance



Good attendance and punctuality are key to ensuring children access the best education they deserve.

Please be aware that as a school we are obliged to follow rules on monitoring and reporting on attendance from government.

We use a letter format from Essex County Council in order to meet our obligations in this area.

Please get in touch if we can do anything to support you in improving your child's attendance. If we invite you in for a meeting, please see this as an opportunity to access help and support from us if you need it.

Class Dojo

Email the office if you need your child's log in details shared again. Mrs Heard can pass this message on to teachers on your behalf.

Reminders

All absences need to be reported each day before 9am by phoning the main school number or emailing admin@stlukespark.essex.sch.uk

If you have arranged for somebody else to collect your child, please ensure that you tell your class teacher or inform the main office who will pass the message on.

Upcoming Dates to remember:

Pantomime	16 th December
KS2 Carol Concert 4pm start	18 th December

For a full list of upcoming dates and times please refer to the calendar on the school website

<https://www.stlukesparkprimary.com/diary/list/>

Stars of the Week



This Week's Winners

Owls - The whole class!
 Squirrels - Nelly and Florence
 Hedgehogs - Sadie and Charlie
 Badgers - Avia and Thea
 Foxes – Fletcher and Elizabeth

Well done for setting such a good example with your kind and positive choices 😊

Certificates are awarded in line with our school values for:

Individuality

I am unique and special: nobody is exactly like me

Respect

I accept that people's thoughts, feelings and rights are important

Resilience

I recover quickly from difficulties because I believe in myself

Responsibility

I know I must make good choices and do my job

Courage

I am brave enough to do the right thing

Compassion

I care about those who are suffering

Collaboration

I work as part of a team to achieve the best results

Creativity

I use my imagination and have

'Feagan's Forest'

Why do we need trees? Trees help fight climate change, save wildlife and improve our health.

St Luke's Park Primary School recently applied to the Woodlands Trust, who provide free trees to schools and communities. We were lucky enough to receive 90 trees which will be planted at the back of the field into two hedges and a mini forest to create an outdoor learning space. This is a long-term project and will also include a log circle, log pile and a bug hotel.



All the children will be involved in the project and this week the children in Little Owls planted their own tree and gave it a name. At the moment the trees are small and look like twigs, but with time they will grow into beautiful trees. We have planted dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood which are great for hedges and will encourage lots of wildlife. In our mini forest, we will be planting silver birch, rowan and wild cherry. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to learn about different tree species, watch them grow and to begin to understand and appreciate nature, as well as enjoy some time being outside.





Recycle to Read Batteries Collection

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our school is recycling batteries to protect the planet (and for a chance to win book vouchers for the school).

We need your help - plus your child could win some fantastic eco-inspired prizes too!

How can you help?

1. Hunt out used batteries at home. We are collecting AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries.
2. Tape over the contacts of lithium (Li) and button batteries (see below).
3. Put them in a tied plastic bag (preferably reused)
4. Take them to the school's collection point.
5. Enter the prize draw at jointhepod.org/win

Safety first:

Not only is storing and recycling batteries safely great for the environment, it can also help reduce risks associated with batteries:

- Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
- Lithium and button batteries need to be taped so their contacts don't touch, as they could short circuit if they do.

Use sticky tape over the contacts (top and bottom of batteries). Button batteries can be placed in a line between two sections of sticky tape. Lithium batteries can look like any battery, but they will have lithium (Li) written on them.

Many thanks for your support and happy battery hunting!

To find out more, head to: jointhepod.org/batteries

Miss Feagan



Batteries list

Batteries we CAN accept:

We are collecting common household batteries:

- AAA, AA, C, D, 9V and button batteries

Any batteries marked with the word lithium (Li) should have their contacts (e.g. top and tail) taped over.

Batteries we CANNOT accept:

- Damaged or leaking batteries
- Very dirty batteries
- Car Batteries
- Industrial Batteries
- Batteries with connecting wires (unless taped to the side of the battery)

Although we're not asking for them, we will collect things like; mobile phone and similar device specific batteries, as well as laptop and power tool batteries, if they are put in your collection box.

Safety First:

Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of the reach of small children and pets.