

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

*Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish. Luke 8:4-15*

Dear all,

Well here we are at the end of a very successful half term. I am delighted with how everyone has settled in and the extremely positive attitude to learning that can be seen in every class.

However, I know everyone is feeling tired so I hope that everyone gets a good rest next week and is able to come back refreshed on the **4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**.

I hope you have a lovely holiday.

Beccy Ireland-Curtis

Headteacher

### **SIAMs**

I am delighted to be able to now send you the SIAMS report. It was a very positive day and I am sure you will agree the report reflects our school and the hard work that is made by pupils, staff, community and Governors.

Highlights of the report:

*Highly motivated leaders ensure that pupils and staff can be the best that they can be. They provide the conditions and resources that individuals need to thrive. Leaders view development holistically and are ambitious that the offer of academic, social, emotional and spiritual flourishing is for all.*

*...pupils experience a breadth and richness of academic, social and cultural events offered locally and further afield. Recent examples include choral singing at King's College and picking apples in the school's orchard. Working with the DEMAT, the academic curriculum is regularly monitored and adapted for effectiveness.*

*The school takes particular care of its vulnerable pupils. In consultation with parents and carers as well as professionals, leaders skilfully adapt the curriculum to meet individual pupils' needs. Sensitive approaches, such as flexibility within the timetable and adaptations to the environment, lead to pupils' increased engagement.*

*School leaders, supported by strong partnerships with the local church and the DEMAT, plan and deliver engaging collective worship. This is a valued part of the school day, enabling spiritual growth through stillness, reflection, prayer and music. It is inclusive.*

*Pupils and adults are treated well at St Luke's. Inspired by the vision to nurture the individual, staff ensure that pupils' unique needs are met within a nurturing environment. Leaders are approachable, understanding, determined to help and aspirational.*

*Secure in their 'environment of encouragement and compassion', the school community is inspired to take responsibility for others and the world. This leads to an outward-looking culture and builds concern for those within the school, in the city and beyond. Pupils are motivated by fairness, responsibility for others and the environment. They are keen to help people who are poor or disadvantaged.*

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*RE has a high profile in the school. The curriculum is broad and balanced, meeting the requirements for the subject in a Church school. Christianity is comprehensively studied. Other principal world religions and worldviews are covered in appropriate depth. Leaders accurately monitor and evaluate the quality of the curriculum. This leads to effective improvement, including the recent adoption of a revised curriculum.*

The school has been on a journey since 2018 and as we wait for our next Ofsted inspection, this report offers a very welcome affirmation to how wonderful our school is.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**

Thank you to everyone who came to St Luke's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service last week. I thought I would share some of the feedback that I received over the weekend.

*'It was wonderful, it took me back to my own childhood and I loved hearing them sing.'*

*'I enjoyed hearing about the history of the building and the school. The children were impeccably behaved and I was very impressed with how the smallest children coped with such a big occasion.'*

*'I have been involved with the school for a long time. I know it has been on a journey and the service showed just how far you have come. It was like the good old days.'*

I must admit, I thoroughly enjoyed receiving all this praise and felt truly honoured to be part of the community.

### **Trustees Visit**

Last Friday, we hosted all of the DEMAT Trustees for a meeting. They were positioned in our superb training room facility which gave them open views of the school grounds. It was a sunny day and even Mr. Fox and his siblings made an appearance by the kitchen garden. At 2:55pm, I was asked if they could go on a tour of the school which I was happy to do. Every class we visited was calm and still engaged in purposeful learning. We were complemented not only on their behaviour, but also the very high standards that the children hold for themselves and each other. We were able to show how to live the school and Trust's vision in our everyday lives. Once again, the children (and staff) showed themselves in their best light. Well done St Luke's.

After all that positivity, it just leaves me to say have a lovely holiday!!