

Head Teacher: Mrs S. Barnes

St Luke's CofE Primary School  
French's Road, Cambridge CB4 3JZ



ST. LUKE'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tel: 01223 566879  
Email: [office@stlukes.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@stlukes.cambs.sch.uk)  
[www.stlukes.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.stlukes.cambs.sch.uk)

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

*Dear St Luke's families,*

February has gone by in a flash! Already, the weather is turning warmer, the daffodils are beginning to appear and it feels like spring is on its way!

This week, we were pleased to welcome back two members of staff. After taking some time for personal reasons, Mrs Aziz is returning to work alongside Mr Pemberton at After School Club, and following a period of illness, Miss Burnes is also returning. She spent some time in class this week and will increase her teaching time over the coming weeks. In the meantime, Mrs Meade will continue to be Hedgehog Class teacher. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Miss Burnes and Mrs Aziz back to the St Luke's family, and thank you for your support during this time.

Please read on for more information and photos of the children's learning this last month, as well as important upcoming events and dates for the next few weeks.

*Very best wishes,*

*From Sarah Barnes and the St Luke's Team.*

### Houses and Values

As well as general hard work, respect and kindness, last half term, the children focused in on the value of honesty. With a whopping 140 points, **Beach** house were our winning House! Congratulations to Molly, Alfie and all the children of Beach House. This half term, we are focusing on the value of **empathy** and understanding other people's feelings.

### Attendance matters

Children are required by law to **attend 190 school days** per year, and the Government states that every pupil's attendance should be **at least 95%**. As of this afternoon, our whole school attendance is **93%**. This table is helpful in converting these percentage figures into the number of school days and weeks missed. Even 95% attendance means children will have missed almost two weeks of school, which is a lot of learning for a child to try to catch up on!

Attendance	Equivalent to	Approximately...
95%	9.5 days	2 weeks
90%	19 days	4 weeks
85%	28.5 days	6 weeks
80%	38 days	8 weeks
75%	47.5 days	10 weeks
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks
65%	66.5 days	13.5 weeks

We are working with families who may need a little extra support with attendance. However, our aim is to promote and praise positive attendance wherever possible. This half term, for **each full week that a child is in school**, they will **earn a raffle ticket entering them into an Easter-themed prize draw on the last Friday of term**. Based on last half term's attendance figures, every child will be able to earn at least one entry into the draw and therefore the opportunity to win some extra Easter chocolate!

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## **World Book Day**

As many of you will know, next Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, is World Book Day. This is a day that aims to inspire every child to enjoy the life-changing benefits of reading for fun. Children will be presented with a £1 book token which they can use to purchase one of the special WBD 2026 £1 books (see below), or put towards the full price of a book of their choice. They are able to redeem the token at participating bookshops or supermarkets.



On the day itself, children will engage in reading activities in school. They are also welcome to dress up as a book character if they would like to (please do bring the book along too so that we can see how the character relates to the story!). However, there is no expectation that they must do so; in which case, they are welcome to come to school dressed in their comfiest clothes for curling up with a good book or their school uniform! Please ensure all clothes or costumes are named, suitable for a school day and not too precious!

## **TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS**

We have recently taken out a subscription to **Times Tables Rock Stars** (TTRS). This is a well-regarded website that is designed to support and encourage children learn and quickly recall their times tables in a fun and engaging way. It can be accessed from home and is an excellent way to encourage children to engage with daily times tables practice. All children in KS2 have been given their username and password, and many have started playing TTRS games already. <https://trockstars.com/>

## **Pancake Races**

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather before half term to come along to our 'pancake races'. The children had a great time racing each other whilst trying to flip their 'pancakes' in the wind! Congratulations to our 'Champions of Champions': Quinton, Adam, Anna and Farley!



## **School Council**

The council are currently working on a project to promote safer parking outside the school. We know that parking can be tricky on French's Road, especially at pick up / collection times. If you need to drive to school, we would like to encourage all parents to drive carefully and park responsibly, and the school council will soon be producing posters to remind parents and residents of these key messages. They are also writing to local officials to highlight the challenges of parking on French's Road and to ask for their support in promoting safe parking at St Luke's.

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### Music Club

Over the last couple of weeks, Mrs O'Connor has been running an after-school music club for children in Y4 – 6. She has been ably supported by Bethan, Hannah, William and Nathan, four volunteer students from Chesterton Community College who have given up their time after school to help St Luke's pupils learn the basics of guitar.



### Squirrels Class



Last half term, children in Reception learnt about Space. They made rockets, salt dough stars, so many planets and each made an astronaut helmet while learning about living in space and how astronauts protect themselves on spacewalks.

In Art, we have been looking at self-portraits, and in particular, the portrait of Barack Obama by Kehinde Wiley because of the symbolism of flowers used in the background.



A few months ago, Ms Hawkins and Mrs Holmes attended Bikeability training which supported their ability to develop the children's balance and pre-cycling skills. Through this training, the school was given six brand new balance bikes, which the children have been enjoying using on the playground. Earlier in the term, the children focused on their balancing skills without bikes. They are now learning how to push and glide on balance bikes and basic bike maintenance.



### Hedgehogs Class

In History, Hedgehog Class are continuing to learn about Ancient Rome and, following on from their study of Ancient Greece last term, they are very much enjoying reading *The Odyssey* in their English lessons! They are also trialling a new maths programme this half term – Can Do Maths – and have been enjoying getting to grips with Times Tables Rock Stars. Their class reading challenge has seen them earning a House point for every 100 pages read; many of them have been racking up the points for all the reading they've been doing in their own time!

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### **Muntjac Class**

To mark the end of their science topic investigating electricity, children in Muntjac Class built circuit bugs complete with wings and LED glowing eyes...



A little in advance of British Science Week, they joined the Lindemann Science Event and spent this afternoon at Magdalene College participating in a series of talks and workshops about subjects including Alien Worlds and the Evolution Journey from Apes to Humans. Thank you to the parent volunteers who joined us.

### **General reminders**

- Make-up and jewellery should not be worn to school. Any child coming to school wearing make-up or jewellery will be asked to remove it and, in the case of jewellery, this will be kept safe until returned to a parent at the end of the day.
- We still have children coming to school without the correct PE kit. Please check our website <https://stlukes.demat.org.uk/uniform> for more information about PE kits and school uniform.
- Children (and grown-ups!) should not be cycling or playing football on the playground before /after school. This is a very busy time and these activities could lead to someone getting hurt. Thank you for your support with this.
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### **Social Media**

A reminder to please like and follow us on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukes.school/>



### **Important Dates: March**

- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – World Book Day
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Parents Evening (please book via MCAS)
- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>** – Chesterton Spring Concert (choir)
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Last day of term
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – *Summer Term begins*