



29th November 2025

Dear St Luke's families,

As the January 15th deadline for Reception 2026 approaches, we have enjoyed welcoming prospective families into school. While I love showcasing our calm classrooms and knowledge-rich curriculum, the true highlights come from the pupils themselves. They proudly tell visitors what matters most to them: our vast open spaces, mixed-age friendships, and the fact that staff truly know every child's strengths and needs. The latter two contribute to the family feel that we work hard to achieve at St Luke's, as does our upcoming whole-school trip to the panto. I was so pleased to see that, as of Sunday morning, all but two children have signed up to come on Thursday afternoon (if you are one of the two, please complete the form ASAP so that we can confirm numbers with the theatre). We recognise the value of shared experiences in building community and further developing our 'family feel', and staff are excited by the opportunity to share this entertaining event with the children. Thank you for your support and encouragement with this trip; further details will follow once we have final numbers.

Fundraising Days

This half term's value is **kindness** – to help us live this value in our daily lives, the House Captains have chosen two charities to support; Jimmy's Cambridge and Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT).

This **Friday, 4th December**, is '**Break the Rules' day** for Jimmy's - **50p per rule broken** from the list below. Any money raised on Friday will be *doubled* as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2025!

School Rule	Example of how you might 'break the rules'
School uniform	Wear your own choice of clothes
School shoes	Wear your own choice of shoes (these still need to be practical for the school day – if you wear slippers, you will need outdoor shoes too!)
Healthy snack	Bring a small, unhealthy treat for play time (no peanuts, please!)
Water only	Juice or squash in your water bottle
Tidy hair	Crazy hair or your favourite hat
No make-up or nail varnish	Make up, face paint, temporary tattoo or painted nails

On **Friday 12th December**, children are invited to wear their **festive socks** (or other festive clothing) and make a donation to support the work of Addenbrookes Charitable Trust.

Music Assembly

Last week, Mrs O'Connor led a music assembly in school. This was an opportunity for children who play and instrument to perform in front of an audience of their

peers.
We
were



treated to piano performances from Adam, Anna, Lily, Carolina and Molly, as well as Gwilym, Agnes and Connie with a selection of stringed instruments. The children all





Tel: 01223 566879
 Email: office@stlukes.cambs.sch.uk
www.stlukes.cambs.sch.uk

performed beautifully, and we were so impressed with their musical ability and their confidence. Not only did our musicians impress, but also the rest of the school provided an excellent audience – they listened well and supported their friends wonderfully. We are looking forward to holding another music assembly next term, and inviting parents to join the audience.

Attendance and absence

As we continue to highlight the importance of attendance, I am sharing with you our local comparison data. This is provided to us by the DfE who have compared our attendance to that of other schools in our local authority. This data was last updated on 20th November, and shows that, as a school, we have the worst attendance out of 209 schools in our local area. Our persistent absence – pupils missing 10% or more – is equally high. This is not a record we are keen to hold, but we need your support to help us improve this ranking.

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	91.3%	You are ranked 209th out of 209 schools
Overall absence	8.7%	You are ranked 209th out of 209 schools
Authorised absence	6.9%	You are ranked 209th out of 209 schools
Unauthorised absence	1.8%	You are ranked 192nd out of 209 schools
Persistently absent	24.2%	You are ranked 208th out of 209 schools
Severely absent	1.5%	You are ranked 159th out of 209 schools

In light of updated guidance from the DfE, the Trust and local authority are updating their expectations for schools around attendance. Over the coming weeks, we will be making contact with all families whose attendance has dropped below 96% and setting up meetings to discuss barriers to attendance. If attendance is below 90%, or there is no improvement following an initial meeting, we will look to create attendance contracts – a formal written contract between parents and school to address irregular attendance. As a school, we will also be looking at further proactive steps we can take to not only encourage positive attendance, but to support those with higher absence to catch up with their peers.

Again, it is vital that we work together to improve children's attendance, and we ask that wherever possible, medical appointments are booked outside of school hours. If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to be in school, consult the NHS website [Is my child too ill for school?](#). If you are concerned about other possible barriers to school attendance, please speak with us. Let's work together to ensure the very best for our children.

Social Media

We're now on Instagram! <https://www.instagram.com/stlukes.school/> Posts coming soon - please follow to see some of the things we've been up to. If you haven't completed the permissions info sent out recently, please do so. Thank you!



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



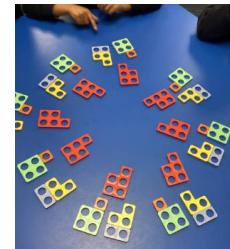
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General reminders

- Please make sure you have pre-booked your child's lunch. These can be booked through to the Christmas holidays, including the Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December.
- Children should change into their PE kit for the PE lesson (Squirrels – Tuesday, Hedgehogs – Wednesday, Muntjacs – Thursday). This should include a plain t-shirt, shorts or joggers / leggings, a sweater and a pair of trainers. No jewellery or hoods – Y6 hoodies are school uniform, not PE kit!

EYFS updates

This month, the Reception children have been reading the story *Brave and the Fox* by Nicola Davies and have used their painting skills to create their own aurora borealis, with Brave's home habitat – the Arctic mountains – in the foreground. The children have also been exploring number bonds to 5 and learning about transport through time.



Dates for the Autumn Term (further dates are available on our school website)

December

- Monday 1st - Y5/6 Choir trip to DEMAT Together Carol Service at Ely Cathedral
- Thursday 4th – Whole school trip to the panto
- Friday 5th – 'Break the Rules' fundraising day for Jimmy's Cambridge
- Friday 12th – Festive Socks (or other festive clothing) fundraising day for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust
- Wednesday 10th 2.30pm – R/1/2 Nativity: **parents and carers welcome**
- Tuesday 16th 5 - 7pm – KS2 Parents Evening – *please book via MCAS*
- **Wednesday 17th 9.30am** – Christmas Service at St Luke's Church: **all families welcome**.
- Wednesday 17th – Christmas lunch
- Wednesday 17th – PTA Christmas Fair after school: **all families welcome**.
- Thursday 18th 3.30 - 5pm – KS2 Parents Evening – *please book via MCAS*
- Friday 19th – last day of school before the Christmas holidays

January

- Monday 5th – Staff PD day
- **Tuesday 6th – term restarts**

Very best wishes,

From Sarah Barnes and the St Luke's Team.