

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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24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

*Dear St Luke's families,*

This half term, classroom and school routines have been embedded, and children have become more familiar with *The St Luke's Way* and what this means for them this year. It has been a joy to pop into classes and see children who are focused and engaged, attending to the teacher and persevering with their learning. And perseverance – our school value this half term – has been evident not just in children's attitude to learning, but across the school, with no-one demonstrating this value more than the members of Meadow House (green). Whilst children across the school have embraced the value, just a few weeks ago, Meadow's stack of House Points was distinctly smaller than the other Houses! However, with motivation and excellent modelling from their House Captains, Agnes and Connie, and with support from other Year 6 pupils, the House has worked hard to demonstrate their perseverance, thoughtfulness and care for one another. The points were counted up on Thursday, and whilst it was close across all four Houses, **Meadow House** were crowned the winners for this half term. **Well done, Meadow!** School Council have been working on a list of rewards for half termly winners, and Meadow House will receive their reward next half term. We'll keep a note of the points though and add them up across the year, as well as finding half termly winners.

Keep an eye out for our School Councillors and House Captains who received their badges a few weeks ago – they have been wearing them with pride (and so far, none of them have been lost or been through the washing machine!). We have been so impressed with how well children have taken to their new leadership roles, especially the role of 'Y6 Buddy'. Whilst this role doesn't come with a shiny badge, it is no less important! This half term, Molly, Anna, Serena, Shehara, Leyla and Amelie have dedicated their own time to ensuring our Reception children not only know *The St Luke's Way*, but have been shown excellent examples of 'how we do things' at St Luke's. Their care, support and thoughtfulness towards our youngest pupils has enabled them to settle and quickly become part of our St Luke's family. Having walked with them to the church, it was lovely to see our Y6 pupils sitting alongside Reception children at our recent Harvest Service, where they modelled the expected behaviour and supported the children to engage in the service.

**Change in PE days** – please note that after half term, Squirrels Class will have PE on a Tuesday, and Muntjacs will revert back to a Thursday afternoon. Many thanks. Please ensure all children have kit suitable for outdoors.

### **Parents evening**

Parents evening will take place **on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 3.30 – 7pm**. Please book your slot via MCAS. We politely request that if you are unable to attend your meeting, please contact the school office or the class teacher to let us know. Thank you.

### **Lunches**

Our Trust catering provider is changing after half term. Very little will change in school, as the staff and organisation will remain the same, but the menu is a little different, and the cost of the meal will increase from £2.75 to £2.93. Attached is a letter from our new provider, Caterlink, with the necessary information regarding this change. The new Autumn-Winter menu (attached) is now available to book on MCAS (including Bonfire Lunch – 5<sup>th</sup> November and Christmas Lunch – 17<sup>th</sup> December).

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## Important Reminders

- Lunches must be pre-booked. You can now pre-book all the way through to the Christmas holidays! If you have not pre-booked your child's lunch, you will be called and asked to bring them a packed lunch.
- If your account is in arrears, you will not be able to pre-book a lunch, and will need to provide your child with a packed lunch. If you currently have a debt on your account, please ensure this is cleared before **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

## After School Club

After School Club is bookable via MCAS, under 'wraparound care provision' (instead of 'clubs'). Please make sure you book ASC on time; there is no cut-off date, and you can book the session until 3pm on the day. Please contact the office if you need to cancel the booking.

Our feedback form is still available if you would like to contribute your thoughts and ideas for ASC: <https://forms.office.com/e/Bne60dL6EC>.



*Tuesday afternoon – gymnastics focus*

## Attendance and absence

At St Luke's, we want **all** pupils to achieve their very best, and the first step to achieving this is to be in school. We recently wrote to the parents of children whose attendance was at 90% or below – classed as 'persistently absent'. After half term, we will follow up on these letters, and also make contact with those whose attendance is at 95%.

Headline Figures (31/08/2025 - 25/10/2025)

Attendance

**92%**

-1.8% Last 4 Weeks

Absence

**8.0%**

+1.8% Last 4 Weeks

Persistent Absence

**28.8%**

+7.6% Last 4 Weeks

Authorised

**5.6%**

-0.2% Last 4 Weeks

Unauthorised

**2.4%**

+2.0% Last 4 Weeks

Lates

**3.5%**

+0.4% Last 4 Weeks

8% of this half term has been lost to absence – 3 of the available 37 teaching days. Whilst some children will have had fewer days off, some have already missed much more than 3 days. **Attainment declines as absence increases** – those who miss school regularly are likely to fall behind in lessons, which can ultimately lead to long-term underachievement.

Attendance is, and will continue to be, a big focus for us this year, but we need your support with this. Wherever possible, we ask that medical appointments are booked outside of school hours, and if you are not sure about whether your child is well enough to be in school, consult the NHS website [Is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/) 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.

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### Squirrels Class



Children in Reception have been reading the story of *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. As their topic came to a close, the children in Squirrel Class came together to make and eat a 'Gruffalo Crumble' made from fruit from our own school grounds!



### BBC 500 Words Competition

A reminder that the closing date for entering the BBC's 500 Words competition is **9pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Children aged 5 and above are encouraged to write an original short story – no more than 500 words – for this national competition, and children can submit their entry from home. Further information about the competition can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

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

#### November

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – back to school
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 3.30 – 7.00pm – Parents Evenings
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Bonfire lunch
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Scholastic Book Fair: books will be available to purchase on certain days during this time. More details to follow.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 2026 Reception Intake Open Morning
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – PTA School Disco
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 6pm – SATs Information Evening for Y6 pupils and parents

#### December

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm – R/1/2 Nativity: parents and carers welcome
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – Christmas Service at St Luke's Church: all families welcome.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – last day of school before the Christmas holidays

Have a wonderful half term. We look forward to seeing children back in school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

*Very best wishes,*

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