

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

www.stlukes.cambs.sch.uk

30th September 2025

Dear St Luke's families,

It has been lovely to see the children settle so well into the new school year, adapting to their new classes and already making good progress with their learning. A big welcome to our new families! At the end of this newsletter, you will find important dates for the term ahead.

This half term, we are focusing on our school value of *perseverance*, and children have been encouraged to demonstrate this in their learning as well as sharing times when they have required perseverance in their lives outside of school. We have thought about why it is important to persevere in class – both in our learning and in our conduct and behaviour - and the rewards that hard work can bring about. It has been encouraging to see what determined and hardworking young learners we have at St Luke's! When staff have spotted children demonstrating this value, they have rewarded a House Point; at present, Ocean House are top of the leader board, but with some *perseverance*, there is still plenty of time for the others to catch up!

A quick note about personal safety; with the evenings beginning to get darker, please talk to your child about how to keep themselves safe - especially if they are in Y5/6 and walk home alone – and what to do or who to speak to if they were ever worried about something. These are conversations we will continue to have with all children in school.

Pupil leadership roles

Following a democratic vote in all classrooms, our school council have been elected. They have already begun work on agreeing the expectations for earning House Points across the school. We look forward to working with Gabriel, Shehara, Carolina, Adam, Ariya, Sana, Ellie S, Shenaya and Constance this year.

As well as our new school council, we are pleased to announce our first-ever House Captains! All children in Year 6 were invited to apply for the role, in writing, and two applicants were selected from each House. Mrs Hoadley and I were so pleased with the number and quality of applications received, and it was pleasing to see the enthusiasm



from many Year 6 pupils to take on such an important leadership role within the school. We are confident that our final choices will not only be excellent role models to the rest of the pupils in their House, but will also be fantastic ambassadors for our school. Our congratulations go to:

City: Anna and Jenson

Ocean: Leyla and Farley

Beach: Alfie and Molly

Meadow: Agnes and Connie

Badges for both of these roles are in the post and will be presented to the pupils as soon as they arrive!

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DEMAT Together Football Tournament

On Friday 19th September, a mixed team of footballers from Years 5 and 6 joined in the DEMAT Together Football Tournament. This saw 15 schools from across the Trust playing 10 games of football each in the glorious September sunshine! After 8 games, we had topped our league and went on to play the winners of the other leagues. Unfortunately, it was not to be, but St Luke's came away from the tournament with a wonderful 3rd place finish! I was very grateful to Mr Pemberton and Mr Beadle for their expert coaching and refereeing on the day, as well as Miss Navarro and the other parents who joined us, helping with supervision and encouragement! Throughout the day, the children not only put their footballing skills to use, but also demonstrated their kindness, their perseverance and their teamwork skills – I was incredibly proud of all of them! Well done Gwilym, Connie, Molly, Agnes, Carolina, Shehara, Alfie, Jenson, Anna, Farley (C) and Keita. ☺



After School Club

Having taken over the running of ASC from Active Play, we recently sent out a survey requesting your feedback and ideas for ASC: <https://forms.office.com/e/Bne60dL6EC> . We would appreciate all parents responding – even if you've never used ASC before – as it will help with our future planning. Thank you.

BBC 500 Words Competition

We are inviting all children aged 5 and above to participate in the BBC's 500 Words Competition. Children are encouraged to write an original short story – no more than 500 words – for this national competition. Children can submit their entry from home, however if they would like support with this or to share a draft of their story with a teacher in school, they are welcome to do so. Drafts should be brought into school by Thursday 23rd October – the last day before half term – to give teachers time to read and return them. Entries close at **9pm on Friday 7th November**, and further information about the competition can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words> .

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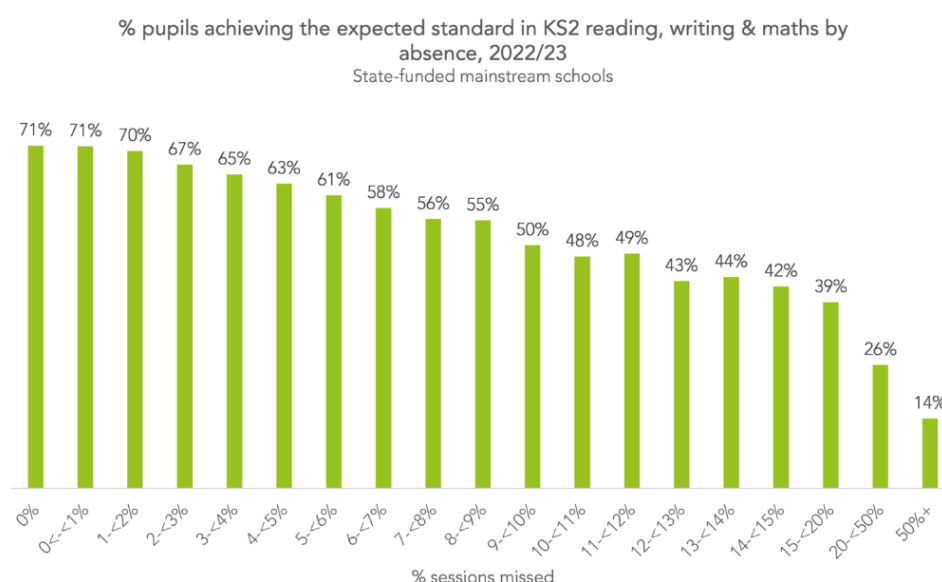
www.stlukes.cambs.sch.uk

Illness and attendance

We have had some cases of head lice in school – please check your child's hair and treat accordingly. The NHS website provides some information on head lice and nits, should you require it:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.

As you will know, in order for your child to do their very best in school, they must first be **in** school. Attendance is a key factor in determining children's outcomes in KS2, which can in turn have an impact on their progress through secondary school and their outcomes at GCSE. As the graph below highlights, **attainment declines as absence increases**. Nationally, children who are in school every day, or missed very little school did better in their Y6 SATs than those with higher rates of absence.



We recognise that absence can be impacted by illness, especially at this time of year, but would strongly urge you to bring your child to school if they are well enough to do so. If they have a temperature or vomiting and diarrhoea, please keep them at home until these have passed (48 hours in the case of a stomach upset), however most other childhood illness can be managed in school and support provided to your child as necessary. The NHS website, *Is my child too ill for school?*, can help you make an informed decision on whether your child needs to stay at home or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> If in doubt, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the office.

If your child is too unwell for school, please contact the school before 9am to notify us. School must be informed each day that your child is unable to attend.

If we have concerns about your child's attendance, in the first instance, we will arrange a time for a meeting to discuss ways in which we can work together to promote attendance. Thank you for your support with this.

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Social Media

One of our goals for this year is to expand the community of our school, and one way we would like to encourage this is through our use of social media. We are planning on opening Instagram for now, with the possibility to expand to other platforms. You will receive an email once this is up and running.

Some of you already have ticked the permission for "Website photos, including social media" on MCAS - if you would like to revoke that, please contact Miss Alexandru on office@stlukes.cambs.sch.uk.

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

October

- Wednesday 8th - Individual photographs: please ensure you have given permission for photos via the MCAS app and that children are photo-ready!
- Thursday 9th 10am - Harvest Service at St Luke's Church: all families welcome
- Thursday 9th – deadline to sign up for Y5&6 Residential
- Thursday 23rd 3.30pm - Open Classroom: an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and take a look at their work
- Friday 24th - PD Day: school closed to pupils
- Monday 27th – Friday 31st – Half Term break

November

- Wednesday 12th – Wednesday 19th - Scholastic Book Fair: books will be available to purchase on certain days during this time. More details to follow.
- Thursday 20th 9.30am – 2026 Reception Intake Open Morning
- Friday 21st – PTA School Disco
- Thursday 27th 6pm – SATs Information Evening for Y6 pupils and parents

December

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

Please note that there was a typo on our published Summer Term dates for this academic year. This has now been rectified and republished on our website. Half term will still run from Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026, and school will close to pupils on Friday 18th July.

Very best wishes,

From Sarah Barnes and the St Luke's Team.