



St Lukian Newsletter

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's

Issue 27 July 2019

Well, here we are in the very last week of this academic year! It's been a year where we've seen countless pupil successes, be they sporting, musical, academic or personal and we have celebrated each one in numerous ways with the children. Of course, there have also been challenges to overcome for pupils, parents and families but we've always tried hard to work with our families to overcome hurdles and achieve the best outcomes for our pupils. Life can be tricky and certainly never straightforward, so we really do appreciate it when families keep the lines of communication open, so we can try to find solutions together- thank you. Of course, our own staff are not immune to the challenges of life either but what is so humbling about being part of the team here at Hanley St Luke's is that there really is a super team ethos - here for the children always but here to support each other too- so a big thank you to all the staff for all their hard work this year.

At a whole school level, we've had many successes and of course some challenges which was summarised really well in our OFSTED inspection in December. Our School Improvement plans were well under way before the inspectors arrived, and continue at pace to achieve our ambitious goals, always striving to make the school the best it can possibly be. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Bug Club Reading Scheme and Online access

This week your child will receive a letter detailing their access to our exciting new approach to reading, following a substantial investment in a brand new scheme complimented by online access to E-books- Bug Club! We held 2 parent information sessions last week to explain this in detail and you can find the slides on our website. We will offer more opportunities for parents to find out more early in the autumn term. We hope your child will enjoy reading some of the e-books over the summer holidays and will start to collect their 'e-coins' which enable them to access games and rewards on their personalised Bug Club area. Happy reading!!



Prize Assemblies

We had a lovely time on Friday celebrating the achievements of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 prize winners and also enjoying rewarding every single one of our Year 2 pupils with their end of Key Stage 1 medals and certificates which was just lovely. Well done to all involved. We will be celebrating with KS2 prize winners on Wednesday and also ensuring that every single one of our Year 6 children have their star moment as they come to the end of their time with us. We wish them all well as they start out on the next chapter of their education!



Holiday Club



You will be aware that we are running 2 holiday provisions over the summer via the Hubb Foundation and ASM Sports.

The Hubb is a morning provision (Tuesday & Wednesday for 3 consecutive weeks starting 30th July) and **totally free of charge with lunch provided**. ASM are running an afternoon club on the same days to support families who may need whole day provision. This is at a very small charge with an additional full day on Thursdays.

Book your child a place on either club or both via your School Money account or contact the office if you need any assistance.

Goodbye & good luck



Some fond farewells

There are a number of staff leaving us this term and it is only right that I acknowledge them all here for the great service they have given to the school whether a long serving member of the team or one employed for just this academic year. So here goes:

Mrs Hardisty is our School Business Manager and has become more or less part of the furniture since 1998 when she started as a clerical assistant but worked her way up to the 'top job' in 2008 and has been running the show ever since! After such a long and distinguished service, Mrs Hardisty is really looking forward to her well-earned retirement, but none of us believe for a moment she'll be putting her feet up but we all wish her every blessing and lots of time spent with her family and friends and many other exciting adventures, we're sure. Mrs Jennings will be taking on the role of School Business Manager and there has been a great transition period this year working alongside Mrs Hardisty to make this a smooth process.

Mrs Clough is our Safeguarding Officer and has worked at the school since 2004, starting off supporting in the classroom. Mrs Clough has been committed to her own professional development in that time, securing at first her foundation degree and various safeguarding qualifications and then also completing her honours degree. She has been a huge asset to our team with so much knowledge and experience and will be sorely missed. However, we are delighted for her that all that hard work, patience and commitment has paid off and she had secured a prestigious promotion within the Local Authority which all happened quite quickly towards the end of term. So, well done Mrs Clough! The post of Safeguarding Officer has been advertised and we expect to appoint by the end of term so will let you know as soon as possible.

Mr Poole is our longstanding Site Supervisor who has sadly been off work ill since the autumn term. He is making a good recovery but is unable to return to work and has therefore started his retirement. Mr Poole has served the school so well since 2009 and has been able to use his professional painting and decorating skills in that time to help keep our school looking 'top notch' which was a real bonus for school! We are extremely grateful for his dedicated service and wish him well as he continues to return to full health.

Mrs Hughes, employed since 2012 as one of our much valued support staff, sadly has also had to leave us due to ongoing health problems. Mrs Hughes was extremely dedicated to the children she supported and was determined to continue working for as long as possible for which we are extremely grateful and hope she is now able to take time out with her family and enjoy improved health in her retirement.

Miss Bashir, one of our Year 3 teachers this year, comes to the end of her temporary contract with us and I am delighted that she has been able to use her experience here to secure a permanent teaching position in another local school. Miss Bashir has worked as a full and valued member of our team this year and we wish her every success in her next post.

Miss Broadhurst and Miss Parkinson, both support assistants, also leave this year having come to the end of their contracts to cover temporary needs for children requiring one to one support. We thank them both for their service and wish them well for the future and their ongoing careers.

And another sad farewell but not a member of staff this time but our very own **Rev Darren!** Rev Darren is presently Rector of Burslem and Team Vicar in the Hanley Team Ministry and has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Tye Green, St Stephen with Netteswell, St Andrew. Rev Darren is an integral part of our school community, both in his role as Team Vicar but also as Vice Chair of our Governing Body where he serves with great faithfulness and dedication and has been an enormous support to our team. We will all miss him greatly but wish him every blessing in his new appointment.



The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



Stoke-on-Trent Libraries and The Reading Agency are excited to announce the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge...

Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge 2019!

This summer children can help our space family track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens!

As they read library books, they will solve clues and collect special stickers to complete their mission folder.

Can you find the aliens in time to save the day?

- Mischief Makers is aimed at children aged 4-11 and is completely **FREE!**
- Children can join Mischief Makers from **Saturday 13 July**
- Children visit their local library **3** times during the summer and read **6** books
- They collect stickers and incentives along the way
- There is a certificate and medal for everyone who finishes the Challenge
- Children can read any books they like, just as long as they are borrowed from the library

SAFETY FIRST

Just a reminder for children to stay safe over the holidays and particularly around open water. Most of us are drawn to the water when the weather is sunny and there's much fun to be had but also extreme dangers too so please speak to your children about staying away from water unless with a responsible adult.

The RNLI has some really useful information and there is a link here to one of their videos which is important for adults as well as children should the worst ever happen:

[RNLI video on how to survive falling into water unexpectedly](#)



A prayer for the summer holidays

Dear Father God,

We thank you for the blessings we have received this year. Thank you for our school and all who belong to our community at Hanley St Luke's. Thank you for the summer holidays and we pray that you will keep us safe whether we are at work, rest or play. We know that some may find the holidays difficult for many reasons so we ask you to help us draw near to you so that we may receive your wisdom and strength when times are hard. We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen

Don't forget everyone is welcome to join us for our End of Year service, being held in the hall at 9.00am on Friday 19th July.





Having been supported by School Healthy UK since September to dramatically improve the lunchtime experience for our children we are delighted to announce that we have been assessed as achieving the top award of Remarkable!! This has been a lot of hard work including not only the extension of the dining room, but a total overhaul of the way we organise the lunchtime both inside and out and we are incredibly proud of the award which would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all the lunchtime staff! Well done to all - we're super proud of you! Here's just an extract from the report (the whole report can be found on our website).

"A relationship between the catering team and the lunch team is great. There is very much *one team*, with all adults present at lunchtime actively interacting with pupils.

Outside, there are a large number of spaces for pupils to engage with, with zones allocated and playgrounds which promote physical activity and social interaction. Staff are clear in their roles during lunchtimes, with appropriate allocation of staffing both indoors and outdoors.

Lunchtime staff are very confident in their roles, and pupils and staff both report enjoying the changes implemented at HSL. Lunchtimes are calm and enjoyable, promoting social interaction and positive behaviours and a remarkable lunchtime experience. A whole school approach to health is well embedded, with only a handful of changes outlined to further optimise this.

Currently, lunchtime at Hanley St Luke's C of E Aided Primary School is: **REMARKABLE"**

There are a few remaining areas suggested to improve still further which are mainly about the contents of food sent in to school in packed lunches and a few suggestions to support parents with this - a really simple one being for parents to let school provide the drinks for packed lunches as we have water and cups available for all children on the tables and only water allowed for our school dinner pupils so it would be a very easy move for parents. This will save parents money, is kinder to the environment, reducing plastic waste and is something we'd really like to encourage from September. We don't want to enforce this rule at the moment but offer it to you as a sensible suggestion we'd encourage you to adopt and we'll review how it's going. The report also asks us to ensure our Food Policy is displayed on our website and this will be in place by September after it has been shared with all staff. Again it includes a few suggestions we'd like to encourage but will leave it to parents to make the final decision particularly regarding sweets sent in for birthdays. The recommendation is parents avoid sweets and opt for other non- food items such as stickers, stationary or a class reading book etc. It would be great if some parents felt able to make this change but, please do not feel pressured to do so. However, if you have any great inexpensive ideas that work well for you and your child, please do let us know so we can share! Small changes really do make a difference to children's overall health and if we work together, I'm sure we will make a positive difference.

