



St Luke's Newsletter



5th September 2016

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and enjoyed the lovely weather we have been experiencing. We are especially pleased to see all of the children back, looking smart in their school uniforms and ready to learn. Clearly you have all worked hard in ensuring your children have the correct clothing and shoes for the new academic year and we thank you for this.

There is much change ahead for us here at St. Luke's. Whilst change can be exciting it can make us nervous too. However, we rest in the knowledge that we do not face change alone and that we have a Heavenly Father who is, "*The same today, yesterday and forever.*" (Hebrew 13:8).

We are now in a position to share that, at the end of the last academic year, the Governors successfully appointed Mr. Matthew Hipperson to the role of Headteacher.

Mr Hipperson is currently working in Barking and Dagenham and will be formally joining our school family on Monday 31st October, 2016: he will be visiting one day each week in the meantime. He will be in school this Wednesday and is looking forward to meeting pupils and parents in the playground that morning (there is a letter from Mr. Hipperson on the reverse of this newsletter). Please do make him feel welcome and continue to pray for him and the school as he prepares to join us. In the interim period, Mr. Huntingford and Miss Norcross will continue to take care of the day to day running of the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

School decoration

Another change at St. Luke's is that the KS2 areas and classrooms have been decorated over the summer! We are sure you will notice some changes in colours. Do come in and have a look! We would also like to thank our site team for their hard work over the summer period for assisting in this.

Debden Residential

A reminder to all Y6 pupils and parents that our annual Year Six residential is booked for **Monday 19th September to Friday 23rd September 2016**. A separate letter with more details will be sent out shortly.

New Staff

In addition to our new Headteacher, Mr. Hipperson, we are pleased to welcome to our teaching team:

- Miss Koenig, Y3
- Miss Akthar, Y1
- Miss Eboh (Cover)
- Mrs Begum (Nursery Nurse) who has joined our EYFS setting and will be working both in Nursery and Reception.

Please do make them all feel welcome.

We are also delighted to share that Miss Collins was married over the summer and is now known as **Mrs Simpson**.

Safeguarding

St Luke's CEVA Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils and aims to provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating learning environment for all children. In the event that we have concerns about a child, we have a legal responsibility to address these concerns to ensure that each child is safe, both in school and at home. We will always try to ensure that we raise our concerns with parents in the first instance; however there may be times when this is inappropriate and we make direct contact with Social Services or the Police. For example if a child has an injury that does not appear to be a result of an accident.

If you have any questions regarding Safeguarding or our Safeguarding Policy, please contact our named designated leads for Safeguarding - Mr Huntingford, Ms Leech, Mr Durrant and Miss Norcross.

Health and Well-being

As you know only Key Stage Two pupils are allowed to walk home alone. You will receive 'Home Alone' letters for these pupils in the next few days. These must be completed fully and returned to school. Only those pupils with signed permission slips will be allowed to walk home on their own.

All Early Years and Key Stage One pupils must be collected by a known adult. An adult is someone over 16 years so please do not expect us to allow a brother or sister who is under 16 yrs to take a pupil home.

If your child had an Educational Healthcare Plan last year and their medical condition or treatment has changed, please make an appointment to see Miss Norcross so that we can amend our information.

Dear Parents,

I am truly honoured to have been appointed as the new headteacher for St. Luke's and am very excited about getting to know all the children, families and staff at the school. My grandfather was from Canning Town and I have spent all my working life in East London and understand both the challenges and the great advantages of living and working here. I am married to Ann and we have two boys, Sam who is 14 and Gabriel who is 18 years old and off to university shortly.

St. Luke's has a history of success and a special covenant to do the best for the people of the area and it is my fervent desire to ensure that we maintain the excellence of the school in these changing times. I'd especially like to thank Mrs Theresa Aanonson both for the tremendous job she has done over the past years and also for the warm greeting she gave me.

In my experience both parents and staff want the best for 'their' children and it is by working with and listening to each other that we can help our children to achieve their full potential. I know that keeping this school successful and maintaining it as a place where we all want to come, depends on us all working together.

I will be holding a number of events (coffee mornings/evening drop ins) over the coming term which will hopefully give myself an opportunity to meet as many of you as possible and look forward to starting this process in the playground as soon as possible.

Just to confirm that as I was appointed right at the end of the summer term I am not due to begin at the school until January but my current school have kindly allowed me to start a little earlier so my first full day will be Monday the 31st October and in the lead up I will be at St. Luke's for one day a week.

Please keep the school in your prayers as we embark on this new chapter together.

Yours Sincerely

Matt Hipperson