

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## December 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Nursery closed all day</b>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	10year Trust Anniversary visit to the theatre
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas/Favourite Jumper Day – Bring-a-bottle
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas singing for parents – 2.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Light Night
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Singing at CrossGates
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Singing at CrossGates
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas performance 2.00pm and 6.30pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Singing at Tesco
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas performance 2.00pm
	Singing at Tesco
	Christmas Dinner
	Class Christmas Parties
	<b>School closes for Christmas Break</b>
	School reopens for Spring Term
	<b>School closed – training day</b>

### School Term dates 2023/24

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Half term: 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Christmas: 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Half term: 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb -16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Easter: 29 <sup>th</sup> March– 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Bank Holiday: 6th May Half Term: 27 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	Summer begins: 24th July

### Training Days:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July,  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Nursery and Reception – additional Training Days Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

### **Children in Need.**

It was lovely to see all the children wearing spots and yellow last week. We raised £320 for the Children in Need appeal – Thank you for your generosity.

### **Mindmate Anxiety Workshop**

Thank you to parents who attended the Mindmate Support Team workshop.

The workshop covered the key elements of anxiety and why children experience anxiety. It also included practical strategies that you can use to support your child when they are worried.

Parents who attended found the session informative and helpful and we hope to run another session later on in the year.

### **10 year Trust Celebration Event – Theatre visit**

We are very excited about our planned visit to Leeds playhouse to see Oliver and the Enormous Crocodile.

Nursery will be closed on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December to ensure we have enough staff in order to make the visit safe and smooth-running.

All children will eat lunch a little earlier than usual so that we are all ready to set off on time.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be leaving school at 12.20 – the Enormous Crocodile starts at 1.00pm. The performance is approximately one hour long and so the children will be back in time for the end of school as usual.

Coaches will be transporting the children and will be dropping and picking up in the designated coach turning circle so basically right outside the main door – there are no roads to cross.

Years 3,4,5,6 will be leaving school at 11.45am – Oliver starts at 12.30pm. The performance ends at 3.00pm so we will return to school at around 3.30/3.45. There will be a lot of children exiting the theatre at the same time so it could take a while for the coaches to fill and then leave. We'll have to be patient with this so please be aware that I can really only give an approximate time – it may be that we are later so please be prepared for that.

**Parents should wait in the playground as usual. To ensure we are all safe and as quick as possible all children will come back into school to collect their things and go to the toilet. Class teachers will bring the whole class out through the rear doors as usual.**

**Please do not ask to take children as we are walking down the road back into school.**

### **Christmas/Favourite Jumper Day – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Bring – a- bottle**

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper or their favourite jumper on Friday however we do want them to bring-a bottle too!

We need bottles or pop, wine, beer, shampoo/bubbles etc. We will be using them for raffle prizes and games for Light Night so please do send some in – the more we have the more prizes you can win!

Please also send any bottles, gift bags, unwanted gifts and items for tombola prizes – just drop them in any time!

### **Nursery Christmas Singing – 2.30 – 3.00pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Nursery parents are invited to join us for Nursery Christmas sing-a-long on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30. Parents do not need a ticket however we will be selling raffle tickets so please bring a £1/£2 so you can join in with the raffle.

Nursery children are invited to wear their Christmas/favourite jumper on the day.

Children who do not normally attend on Thursday are welcome to join us – please bring your child with you through the main office entrance at 2.20pm and we'll take them down to Nursery to join all the children.

### **Christmas Performance - Arrangements**

We do hope you all enjoy our Christmas performance this year. The children have started singing the songs and sound wonderful already! Dancing will start next week and the actors with speaking parts are almost word perfect.

**Tickets** – Tickets are limited and requests for tickets should have come into the office this week. As always, Mr Barker will have a very detailed spreadsheet and he will be doing his best to accommodate all requests however it will not be possible to satisfy everybody so please be patient and flexible.

### **Arrangements – Evening performance.**

All children will be taking part and so we would like ALL children to come to school for the evening performance. If you do not have a ticket to watch the evening performance, please bring your child to school and come back to collect them at the end (approx. 7.30).

The doors will open at 6.00 – they will not open before that so please don't come too early. Children should arrive by 6.20 to give themselves time to get into costume and go to the toilet.

At the end of the performance, we will operate a ONE-WAY system. Parents will be asked to wait in the hall and parents who are arriving to collect will be invited into the hall too – please do not wait in the corridor or block the entrance to the hall. Staff will bring children through to the Hall to hand over to parents – this will take some time so please be patient. Everyone will exit via the rear hall door onto the Nursery path.

This system has worked really well in previous years. It does take time but if parents wait in the main body of the hall (not at the door) and leave as soon as you have got your child/children it does clear quite smoothly and we can all be confident that all children have been collected by their adult.

### **LIGHT NIGHT – Staggered Entry**

We are all looking forward to Light Night again this year– fingers crossed the weather is kind to us!

Walk through the lights, have one of Mrs Claus' oatie cookies, try your luck on the Money Tree or Grab a Bag, spot the hidden elves & have a hot chocolate together. Visit Santa in his grotto & Olaf in his hut! PLUS New games including Punch a Pot, Lucky Sprout Dip & Knock the Elf off the Shelf!!,

ENTRY is FREE but please bring some cash for games and donations towards Hot Chocolate – which we hope will be as delicious as last year!

There will be a one-way trail to follow through the lights. We are hoping that Mrs Claus will pay us a visit and there will be stops along the way. Naughty elves may also be hiding in the trees – bring your own torch to see if you can spot them.

Entrance is via the Nursery Path and staff will be at the gate to greet you. We will be setting parents off at short intervals so that everyone can enjoy searching for elves, looking at lights and walking carefully along the trail. We don't want anyone to rush as there are trip hazards along the way and we don't want any accidents in the dark!

To avoid a long queue there is a suggested entry timetable below.

5.00 -5.25 Families with youngest child in Foundation

5.25 – 5.55 Families with youngest child in year 1 and 2

5.55 -6.15 Families with youngest child in year 3 and 4

6.15 onwards Families with youngest child in year 5 and 6

We need your help!

- Please return the envelope which was attached to your flyer with between 20p - £1 inside. It will be used for the Money Tree game!
- Send bottles, gift bags, unwanted gifts and items for tombola prizes.


### **Christmas Parties**

All classes will be holding their Christmas parties on Thursday 21st December. Children do not need to bring any food for the parties – we will provide drinks, a bun, biscuit and crisps. *As it's also Christmas Dinner Day everyone will be full up after a delicious lunch so we don't want too much food in school as it will go to waste.* Children can come to school in party clothes on that day – please remember suitable footwear and a coat though as we'll be going outside whatever the weather.

### **Healthy Holidays Jan 2024 🎉 at St Luke's**


Get ready for an energetic and joyful Christmas Holiday program tailored for primary school kids aged 4-11 years old! Open to all children receiving free school dinner support and actively attending primary school aged 4 to 11.

Join us from January 2nd to 5th at our new venue, St Luke Church, Stanks Lane North, Swarcliffe, LS14 5AS, for four days of festive fun, engaging Christmas activities, and, of course, delicious healthy food!


 We've shifted the program to January 2nd-5th this year. This is because the school holidays start later this year, so let the post-Christmas excitement continue!




Each day promises a variety of Christmas-themed activities, tasty lunches, and the chance to learn how to cook some healthy treats. Plus, every child gets a fantastic take-home bag filled with goodies and helpful information to encourage positive cooking at home.


Don't miss out on the laughter, connection, and meaningful conversations about life and the true spirit of Christmas with other kids in LS14! Use the sign-up information below to secure a spot for your kids. Act fast as we have limited spaces for children aged 4-11.

 Hurry! Only 30 spots are available, exclusively for primary school-aged children receiving free school dinners. Reserve your spaces now to avoid disappointment!

Book via. <https://events.solidrock.io/missional-generation/Healthy-Holidays-Jan-2024>

 Need assistance signing up? Email [ben@missionalgen.co.uk](mailto:ben@missionalgen.co.uk) or call 07815077836 if you have any questions.

 Timetable  Special Trip Day Info:  Please note that on the trip day, we will be meeting at St Luke's at 9:30 am to get onto a bus to the chosen trip venue. More about the trip will be shared closer to the time. If this trip changes days, we will let you know ASAP.

Address for all the activities: St Luke Church, Stanks Lane North, Swarcliffe, LS14 5AS   
Daily Activities: All activities start at 10 am (unless it is the trip day).

- Tuesday, 2nd January: Christmas crafts, cooking, and much more.
- Wednesday, 3rd January: More Christmas fun, cooking, and much more.
- Thursday, 4th January: Engaging in Christmas crafts, cooking, and much more.
- Friday, 5th January: Festive crafts, cooking, and much more.

Please note, the timetable and activities may be subject to change, and you will be notified of any alterations.

Book via. <https://events.solidrock.io/missional-generation/Healthy-Holidays-Jan-2024>

### **Parent Governor vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor position on our Governing Body. If you are interested and would like to find out more about what this entails, please do get in touch with me or with Mr Barker and we can have a chat about it.

**Attendance**

Please remember that all messages relating to attendance/absence should go directly to the school office and not to the class teacher. Please telephone 0113 2930280, text or email [john.barker@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:john.barker@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk) or [Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk).

Please remember that holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a fine.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Sheerin