Headteacher's Welcome

Friday 16th October 2026

Today, we welcomed 58 colleagues from across Grace Schools into St Luke's for a termly English forum. This was an opportunity to think about how we teach children to write across our trust, to share good practice and to ensure that all staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to support all children to leave our schools as confident readers and writers. We also thought deeply about how we can enable children to read a piece of text in close, careful detail. We look forward to being able to share this knowledge with all staff and seeing the impact of this on our readers, especially those in KS2. My thanks as well to the whole team at St Luke's, and all of the children, who were flexible and accommodating as we took over the school hall for the day!

A few reminders - next Thursday, 22nd October is the last day of the half term (no school on Friday). To celebrate the start of half term and to welcome parents new and old to the school, the PTA are hosting a 'coffee and cake' event after school on the 22nd. Pupils will return on Monday 2nd November. Parents evenings are on the 3rd and 4th November - bookings for these is now live on MCAS. Please come along to meet your child's teacher and discuss how they are getting on.

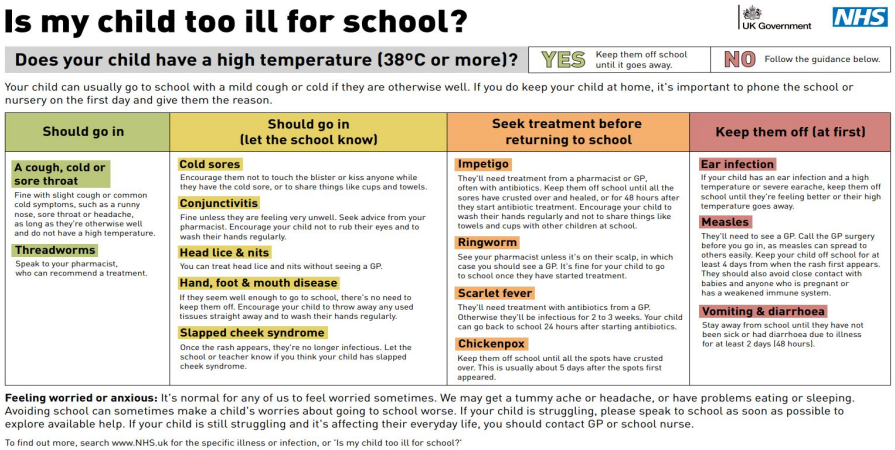
Sarah Barnes - Headteacher - head@luk.graceschools.org.uk

Website: https://luk.graceschools.org.uk/

Attendance

This week, attendance at St Luke's is currently **96.3%.** This is just under our schools expected percentage of 97%! Just a small push away from where we aim to be!

Attendance matters for every child's learning and routine, so we encourage you to send your child to school if they are experiencing only mild symptoms, such as a minor runny nose, light cough, or slight tiredness. Children often feel much better once they are engaged in their normal school day alongside their friends. However, if your child has a high fever, is vomiting, or feels too unwell to participate in daily activities, please keep them home to rest and recover. If you are ever unsure, feel free to contact the school office for advice! Or NHS guidelines as below:



Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Emma Warner - Attendance Assistant - attendance@luk.graceschools.org.uk

Safeguarding

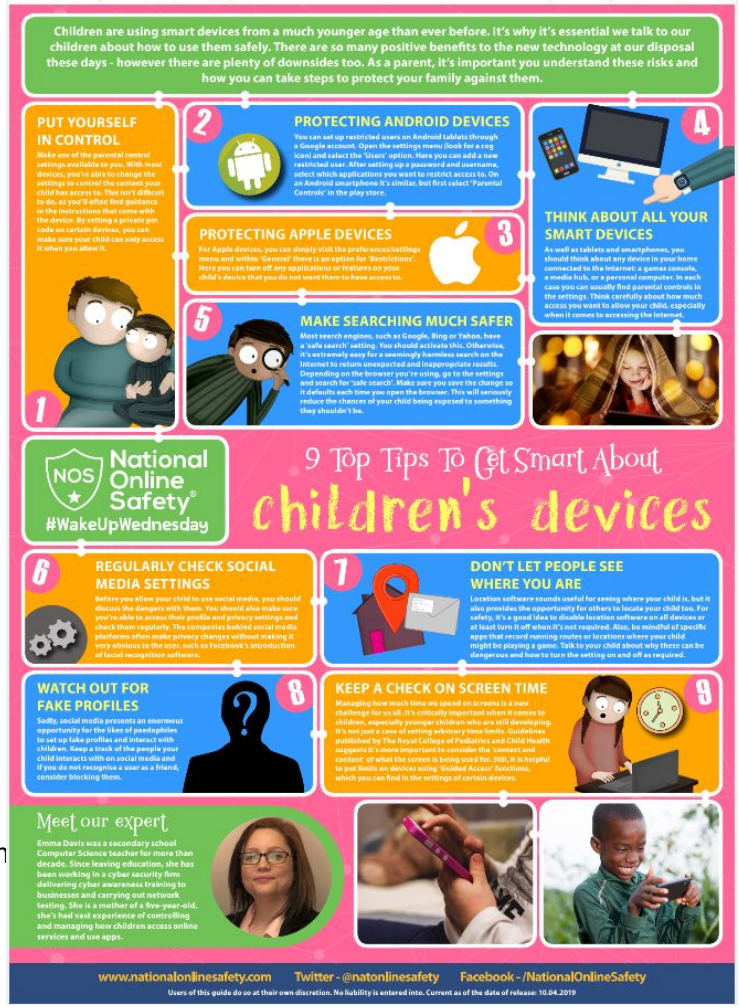
This week's guide offers advice for parents on how to protect your child's devices. Although aimed at parents, there will likely be messages that may be appropriate to share with your child too.





With the weather beginning to feel more autumnal, being active can sometimes feel like more of a challenge. However, with half term just a week away , and with physical activity being important to both physical and mental health, this seemed a good time to share these messages with suggestions for how children can get in the recommended activity time each day.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/physical-activity-guidelines-children-and-young-people/



Sarah Barnes & Micol Alexandru - Designated Safeguarding Leads - safeguarding@luk.graceschools.org.uk

Inclusion



We are inviting parents to our coffee mornings starting this new school academic year. A chance for parents to come into the school and discuss any concerns, have a coffee/ tea and catch up, and to meet other parents within our school community to share any advice or experiences. We would like to be able to offer support to one another as a whole school community.

We can also offer targeted support through Speech & Language, The Early Help team, Our Family Liaison officer, Amanda Gilbert, and our Educational Psychologist for Cambridgeshire, Caroline Sivasundaram.

I look forward to meeting you at our first coffee morning after half term. Dates will be shared shortly.

Jenny Maginnis - SENCo- sendco@luk.graceschools.org.uk

Updates from the Office

Alex, a former St Luke's pupil has started volunteering in the **After School Club.** She is going to be with us every Wednesday, for the whole school year. She likes sewing, crafting, crocheting and anything textile related.

The cost for this will be the same as always, £10.50 or £5.50 if you are entitled to PP funding (this means targeted FSM).

Help us improve our **ASC** - complete our Wraparound care feedback: https://forms.gle/JCY1okAJM2Lgcju79

ASC booking: please make sure you pre-book your child in ASC. This is for safety reasons, especially when children under 5 year old are present (the adult-to-child ratio changes) and because this will enable our staff members to buy enough food for everyone for the whole week!

Y6 Leavers Hoodies: the children have chosen **Peppermint**. The company is still working on the website, but you will be able to order them soon!

Parental Consents: please make sure your parental consents are up to date! We have added the following consents to MCAS, please make sure you give/deny consent as soon as possible:

- Y5/6 ONLY - walk home alone after ASC
- Y5/6 ONLY - mobile phone permission
- We split Class and Individual Photos for everyone

Balances: please make sure that any debt is cleared as soon as possible (lunches or ASC).

We do have a couple of cases of head lice in school. Please check your child's hair carefully and treat accordingly. This page gives you further information on what they are and how to treat them: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

Micol Alexandru & Emma Warner - Office Coordinator & Attendance Assistant - office@luk.graceschools.org.uk

Reception Open Days

We will host four Reception Open Days every Friday during November.

We would really appreciate if you would help us spread the word!

We have designed these lovely leaflets that we'll drop at some local nurseries, but if any of you would like to collect some of these and help to distribute them around the local area, please contact the office.



Pupil Page

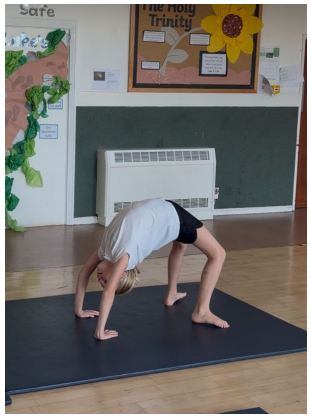
Points...	Beach	City	Ocean	Meadow
This week:	21	8	12	5
This term:	165	156	148	159
This year:	165	156	148	159



We all love football and we know that, but pupils in ASC have been enjoying a variety of different activities. Here's some pictures of them during Badminton and Gymnastics!









Pupil Voice

Roopkatha Y6: Roopkatha joined us in September and she really likes art, sewing and anything crafty. She said "I really like that Mrs Aziz (ASC supervisor) is kind and patient when she helps me with sewing in ASC. I really enjoy it!"

Muntjacs Class

This week, the children have been drafting short stories linked to the adventures of the characters in The Wind in the Willows, vividly imagining and portraying what it might be like to be small creature trekking through a snow-covered ‘wild wood.’ In maths, year 5 have been working with decimal numbers and year 6 have been using division, presenting remainders as whole numbers, fractions and decimals. In science lessons, we compared mouse, human and elephant life cycles… Also, we are excitedly beginning to plan artistic designs to be created on canvas inspired by abstract artists such as Piet Mondrian, Sonia Delaunay and Jackson Pollock…

Hedgehogs Class

This week, in Hedgehogs the children have become experts in complex sentences in English and begun their exploration of shape in maths.

The highlights of the week have included exploring both the physical and human geographical features of San Francisco and a detailed and enthusiastic discussion around human digestion in science.

They have also enjoyed reading our class text ‘Stig of the Dump’ and have been able to make accurate inferences about the theme of friendship.

Squirrels Class

This week in Squirrels Class, our KS1 English focus has been consolidating our knowledge of what every sentence needs, in particular identifying subjects and predicates, with Year 2 practicing how to build compound sentences. In Maths, Year 1 have been partitioning 5 and creating related addition and subtraction number sentences, while Year 2 have moved on to 2-digit addition, using Dienes and base-10 cubes to support their learning. Meanwhile, Reception have been mastering counting and recognising numbers up to 6.

It has also been a creative and active week across the board. The children have enjoyed painting waves, singing samba music, and getting into the festive spirit early by crafting Christmas cards. Outside, Reception built an exciting conker run, and together we read ‘The Suitcase’, a wonderful story that teaches us how to welcome and befriend new people.

Happy birthday to the following children who had birthdays this week!

Aleyah, Ahyan and Sasha





Thank you so much to Ahyan's mum for bringing in this lovely cake for our staff to enjoy at the end of a long week! It was really appreciated!

Due to nutritional and allergy legislation in schools, we cannot allow sweets and other treats to be given out to children for birthdays. However, if you would like to celebrate your child's birthday in school, please donate a new book to our school library, and we will include your child's name and occasion and share this in assembly.

Important Dates

October

- ~~16th - Deadline~~ to return Christmas Cards **EXTENDED to Monday 19th!**
- **22nd - Last day of school & PTA Welcome Coffee and Cake event**
- 23rd - PD Day (3)
- 26th - 30th - Half term
- 31st - National Deadline for Secondary School Applications

November

- 3rd & 4th - Parents Evening
- Every Friday in November - Open events for Reception 2027
- 10th - Parent Coffee Morning
- 11th - Flu vaccinations
- 19th - Measles vaccinations
- 11th - 18th - Scholastic Book Fair

December

- 3rd - Flu vaccinations (mop-up)
- 4th - PTA Winter Disco-Fair
- 7th - Grace Schools Carol Service
- 15th - Parent Coffee Morning
- 17th - Reception vision screening
- 18th - Last day of term

January 2027

- 4th - PD Day (4)
- 5th - Term starts
- 12th - Measles vaccinations (mop-up)
- 18th - Young Voices (KS2 Choir)





FREE Storytime with Lou Carter at Cambridge Central Library

Mon 26 Oct 2026 | 2:30pm - 3:15pm

Come along to this special library story time with bestselling author Lou Carter.

But just so you are prepared, there is absolutely NO DRAGON in this story. As hard as he might try to join! All the other fairytale characters just don't want him. Not Hansel and Gretel, nor the Frog Prince or Goldilocks. But poor dragon just wants a chance to be the HERO.

Lou Carter is the author of many funny fairytale books such as *There Is No Dragon in This Story*, and *There Is No Big Bad Wolf in This Story.* Join Lou for this brilliantly fun interactive story time!

To book a place, visit the Cambridge Central Library's event page.

Perfect for children 4-7 years.

Venue: Cambridge Central Library

Duration: 45 mins

