



St Lawrence Headlines

February 2019

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God."
ROMANS 8.28



Dear Parents/Carers



So far we have successfully missed the snow and hopefully we should now be heading towards warmer temperatures (although I remember it snowing in March/April last year!).

We have lots to celebrate this half term and many of our successes are highlighted here in this newsletter. We received a congratulatory letter from our local MP Dominic Raab regarding our great SATs results last year. A copy is on the website: <https://www.stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk/>

It is always nice to receive external validation for the work we are doing at school.

We continue to perform well at sports. We have been entering many more and different sports and the children are fully engaged and enjoying it. As I have previously mentioned, we are hoping that our new table tennis tables will be in place after Easter ready for the Summer term and also we have ordered three basketball hoops that we hope to be able to use after Easter too.

The PTA are helping with this programme of Outdoor Enrichment and we thank them for their generosity.



I hope you all have a relaxing half term break.

Dominic Tucker

Attendance for the first half of Spring Term:

Robins — 96.7%	Swifts — 96.2%
Merlins — 97.3%	Peregrines — 95.3%
Parrots — 96.5%	Toucans — 95.9%
Eagles — 96.4%	Owls — 92.7%
Ospreys — 93.4%	
Quetzals — 95.8%	
Kites — 94.3%	



Congratulations to **Merlins Class**
on achieving **97.3%** attendance!





Recent Events



Last month Year 3 had great fun creating their own versions of Arcimboldo pictures of faces made out of fruits and vegetables.

Safer Internet Day

"We had positive responses from the children throughout the day. It was pleasing that it generated lots of discussions about what our children do online and how they should show respect online. A particular highlight for me in Owls class was when I asked the children to draw an apple, a dog and then the internet. It was obviously challenging to draw the internet and it was fascinating to compare their images and discuss how the internet means different things to different people".



Mrs Rey—Computing Coordinator

Blue Monday

Notoriously the third Monday in January is known as 'Blue Monday'. At St Lawrence, we decided to beat the Monday blues by doing a variety of things. Comfort was first and foremost and children and adults were invited to bring slippers to change in to and wear during the day. We had an array of interesting footwear in school, ranging from bright yellow Pikachus and sparkly unicorn slippers to more modest, fluffy ones. However, everyone agreed that it was a welcome change to the school uniform for the day. The children were also treated to a 'pick me up' cookie during the afternoon lessons and each class had a wellbeing session at some point during the day. This activity was decided on by the individual classes.

Some classes did mindfulness colouring, others played games, whilst others listened to music.

To further support the children, teachers have carried out wellbeing questionnaires with all pupils. These have been analysed and, depending on the needs of individuals or whole classes, outcomes will be addressed appropriately. The wellbeing questionnaire, along with other information about mental health and wellbeing, can be found in the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing section under PARENTS on our website: <https://www.stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing>



G-Live

"Before we went to the concert, we practised a song together called 'It's an Ark'. On the day, we went to the G-Live centre in Guildford. We sat in the theatre waiting and then they told us that all the instruments were stuck in traffic. They came in one at a time. We saw flutes, trumpets, drums, trombones, violins, cellos and a huge tuba. The magician showed us tricks. He took a cheese and a baguette out of an oboe. It was really funny. A lady then performed a solo with the oboe. She was really good. The music was really calm and nice. It went with a story called 'Charlie's Ghost' and was really descriptive. At the end some of the children got to go up on stage. It was really funny. Henry H and Jack O did the Cancan. They chose some children to play instruments in the orchestra and Louise B-B and I were able to conduct the orchestra. We had to hold a baton and make an L shape with our hands. We sang the song we had been practising with all the other children from other schools. It sounded really good. It ended and our class was one of the last schools allowed to leave the theatre, which took ages!" Sam S, Robins class



Sports News by Mr Parker



This term has been action packed with tournaments, friendlies and new sports! We have taken part in competitions for dodgeball, netball, boys' football and girls' football. In everything we had impressive outcomes, results, excellent quality and great representation from the children of St Lawrence.

Taking part for the first time in a dodgeball competition between local schools was an exciting event for us this term. A selection of Year 5 and 6 children attended the competition and we not only matched the incredibly high standard set – a marked improvement on previous year's we were told – but we ended up finishing in 3rd place! Among a number of highlights produced by the skill the children showed were some very entertaining moments for the parents who attended, being seated in the line of fire for every game and actively having to dodge themselves!



Netball club continues to be very popular with Years 5 and 6. Both our A and B teams have been improving during our training sessions and have made an encouraging start to the Esher District League. Our A team narrowly lost to Thames Ditton in an exciting and close match and had a convincing win over Royal Kent. The B team has played with great enthusiasm in both their matches so far and has been unlucky not to win. We have several more matches to play over the coming weeks, including the highly-competitive Reeds Netball Tournament (where we will be hoping to improve upon our third place last year) and a friendly Netball Festival at Thames Ditton. Thank you to all the parents for their continued support and particularly to Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Green who have been a tremendous help at Tuesday Netball Club. – Mrs Whitfield and Mrs Rey.

Year 6 boys' football team have been performing brilliantly this season. They are currently finalists for this season's schools league – undefeated in the league thus far. We will be watching the final after half term with great interest! Year 5 boys' football team in the meantime have enjoyed playing their first friendlies this term and will be looking to add a game or two before the end of the year in preparation for next year's challenges.

Our Year 5 and 6 girls' football squad have been building steadily this year; they are developing as a team and have played a number of friendly matches with mixed results but wonderful spirit and effort. This week they have taken part in a Chelsea FC tournament at Blenheim school and managed to obtain mixed results winning some games.

In regards to football we would like to say a very big thank you to all the parent helpers who have put on training, attended matches and tournaments and even begun to provide refreshments for the spectators! A mention has to go to Mr Barrington-Brown for generously supplying us with fantastic state-of-the-art football goals this season.

Along with our first appearance for dodgeball, we have taken part in an entirely new sport to the children: lacrosse. A great number of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 attended a 'taster' match at Claremont school. They played two matches against Claremont and had mixed success: one team winning (5-0) and the other losing (5-2). Every child walked away smiling and delighted to have had a go at such a fast paced and exciting sport.

In the coming weeks we have several events. A number of football matches for Year 5 and 6 boys and girls, District Cross Country at Garson's Farm and looking towards Summer term – Sports Day! Thank you all for your continued support.



School News



Our Healthy Schools Initiative

To help ensure that a positive and proactive approach is taken towards the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing at St Lawrence, and to ensure that wellbeing is a focus within our school ethos and culture, from the start of October 2018, the children have been walking and/or running a twice weekly mile. This is in addition to the current two hours per week of PE and is part of a wider government initiative to increase physical activity in schools.

Evidence has shown that physical activity helps build children's confidence and emotional resilience and therefore their capacity to learn. The Department of Health believes 'Good schools will be active promoters of health in childhood and adolescence, because healthy children with high self-esteem learn and behave better at school'. (Healthy Living, Healthy Lives DOH).

So far, children's responses have been very positive and they have reported enjoying taking part in the mile, feeling happier after the mile and feeling healthier after the mile. Many teachers have also noticed that children are more engaged in their learning after the mile and they themselves have felt an improved sense of wellbeing. We would also like to ask parents, at the end of the Spring Term, if the twice weekly mile has had a positive impact on their child's health and wellbeing. We would be very grateful for your feedback on this.



Mrs Scanlan
Healthy Schools
Co-ordinator.



Library Corner

Robins class have read the most books this school year so congratulations to them. Swifts are close behind, so keep on reading!

I was very pleased to be able to make a modest presentation last week, in assembly, to three children who have read the most books (from the St Lawrence library) since starting at St Lawrence. Louise B-B in Toucans, though only in year 5, has read 54 books. In second place was Evie M in Eagles, who has read 56 books and first, with a staggering 80 books read, is Ruby T in Kites. Huge congratulations to all of them for reading so many books.

More presentations will be made in the future so I hope all the children will keep coming to the library and taking books out. As Dr Seuss said 'The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go!'

Mrs Heffernan—
Librarian



Top of the Form

George, Alexander, Michael, Sienna and Ruby from Year 6 travelled to Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School on Friday 8th February for their first 'Top of The Form' Competition. The questions were very challenging and covered areas including Topical, English Literature, Sport, Geography, History and Spelling! All the children worked hard to answer individual questions and did lots of conferring giving a **final score of 32 to St Lawrence and 55 to Cardinal Newman.**

Mrs Uwai and accompanying parents were extremely proud of all the children's hard work and diligence on the day, in addition to their commitment to practicing in their lunch breaks for the last term!





The Parenting Puzzle—by Mrs Uwai



Raising children can be puzzling at times, but puzzles have solutions – and The Parenting Puzzle provides them.

The Parenting Puzzle encourages parents and carers to enjoy bringing up children and get the best out of family life. It offers positive, practical ways of guiding children so they can learn to handle both their feelings and their behaviour. The course is informal, fun and a great confidence booster and is suitable for families with children of all ages. Open to parents, grandparents and carers at £50 per course, which includes the accompanying book – free places available, please ask, we don't turn anyone away. Refreshments available.

Coffee afternoon to find out more, on Wednesday 24th April 12.30-1.30pm

Course starts Wednesday 1st May 12.30-2.30pm for 10 weeks, break for half term

Please ask for more details and to register your interest!

Lower Green Community Centre, Farm Road,
Esher, Surrey KT10 8AU

Free parking!

For more details call Teresa Doe 07871 079205 or email t.doe@orchard.surrey.sch.uk
or Michelle Tucker michelleatucker@aol.com



Future Events



February

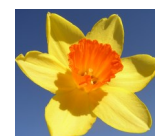
25th: School returns
27th: Year 3 visit
from Poet Rachel
Rooney
28th: Year 4 Roman
Workshop
28th: Readathon
starts



March



6th: Year 2 Orchard pupils to visit Year 3
6th: Readathon ends
7th: World Book Day
8th: Merlins Class Assembly
W/c 11th: Science Week
12th: Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-6pm
14th: Parent Consultation Evening 5-7pm
15th: Robins Class Assembly
22nd: Year 3 Trip to Nower Wood
29th: Owls Class Assembly



April

2nd: Year 3 Trip to Kew Gardens
4th: Easter Pause Day
5th: Year 5 Easter Service at St Pauls
5th: School breaks up 1.30pm
End of Spring Term
School returns Tuesday 23rd April

