



# St Lawrence Headlines

December 2020

**“For to you is born today in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord” Luke 2. 11**

What an Autumn term we have had. So many adjustments have been made from staggered starts and finishes, to different assembly times and split lunches, to keeping bubbles separate and everything in between! It has been an exhausting term but we have to be thankful that, unlike many local schools, we have not had to alter our timetable or close many classes. I hope that we are as fortunate next term and that with vaccinations becoming available for more people we might see some return to normality before the end of the year. I really want to thank the staff and children who have adapted extremely well to the ever-changing landscape and executed it so quickly, given the speed at which some changes have had to happen. I want to thank all parents who continue to wear face masks when on the school premises. As we enter Tier 3 I believe it is important that we continue to follow the guidance. It would be a shame should the lack of wearing a mask lead to cases appearing in school and then to class closure. The more vigilant we are, the better chance we have of keeping the school open. These Coronavirus protective measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have emailed in and spoken to us to express their thanks for the effort that has gone into this challenging term. Those parents with a knowledge and understanding of the difficulties we have faced and changes we have had to make have supported us in these difficult decisions. I will keep writing to try to explain the new and different ways we are having to work and hope that all parents will understand when new things happen.

Luckily, we have managed to have several visitors to enhance the education of the pupils. We had a fantastic Book Fair, which we had to alter and it became a click and collect service. I would like to thank Mrs Whitfield for organising it so well. We would also like to thank the Governors who came in to help sort out the books for the children. More information in this newsletter. I would also like to thank the PTA for their efforts during these difficult times of not being able to fundraise in the normal way.

I know that Christmas will be different for us all this year and we have to make the most of it in any way we can. I hope you all manage to stay safe and celebrate in a Covid safe way wherever that may be. Please do remember that if your child tests positive for Coronavirus up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, email [office@stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk) and let us know their name and class. We can then pass the information on to other children who have been in close proximity. Please do not contact the school through our **ADMIN** email address (which is our usual contact address) as this is not checked over the holidays.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With best wishes,

*Domian Tucker*



Attendance for the second half of Autumn Term:

**Robins — 97.4%**

**Swifts — 97.9%**

**Wrens—99.6%**

**Hérons — 94.0%**

**Kingfishers— 99.5%**

**Swans — 98.9%**

**Quetzals — 98.0%**

**Toucans — 98.9%**

**Eagles — 97.6%**

**Kites — 98.1%**

**Owls — 98.2%**

Congratulations to **Wrens** on achieving **99.6%** attendance!



## Recent Events

Our Book Week theme of “Travelling Without Moving” was certainly appropriate this year! Fortunately, we were able to do most of our old favourites, such as Dress-up day, Book Week homework and the poster competition, and we had an excellent visit from the author, Stephen Davies, who inspired the children with his workshops on characterisation and the Titanic.

**Our Dress-up day theme was to dress as a word and we had some very inventive ideas across all the year groups.**

The Book Fair went ahead on a “virtual” basis, but with the children still being able to browse, compile a wish list and enjoy the thrill of opening a new book. I am delighted to say that it raised an astonishing amount this year – just shy of £2,000, which translates to over £1,000 worth of new books for the school.

**Thank you to everyone who supported it and particularly to our gallant band of governors who worked their way through the intricacies of “click and collect” to find and deliver the book orders with patience and stamina!**



Year 5 found out about oats and porridge for our DT topic on healthy breakfasts this term and then cooked our own



**We also had a Greek Mask workshop from the Strangeface Theatre Company, which tied in with our history topic of Ancient Greece. The leader, Richard, was very impressed with our knowledge of Greek theatre!**



In Year 5 we finally had our postponed workshop from Chertsey Museum on the Ancient Greeks. It was very interesting and fantastic to see real Greek artefacts that were over 2000 years old.

# Year 4 Christmas Production

Filming the production was really good fun because we had lots of jokes in it. We all enjoyed reading A Christmas Carol in our lessons and writing about Scrooge during literacy. We also enjoyed finding different places around the school to film our scenes.

“We had a lot of fun filming our production, although sadly we didn't get to show the school. My favourite part was doing the Proud Mary dance. I also liked going inside and outside for different scenes.”



“I liked getting to sleep in an upside down table made to look like a bed.”

“I liked saying Bah Humbug a lot.”

“I enjoyed the Strictly Come Dancing scene.”

“I enjoyed playing the drums as Scrooge to the song sixteen tons.”

“My mum laughed and cried at the same time when she saw me dressed as an angel.”

“It was fun when we wheeled the angels in on the trolley.”

“I really liked our Christmas production because they combined one of my favourite books (A Christmas Carol) with the real Christmas story, although it was annoying we didn't get to perform to the other years. I also liked it because we got to dress up in cool costumes. It was the best!”



# School News



Thank you all for your very generous donations on Christmas Jumper Day. Many hampers have been delivered to bring a little extra cheer to the local community this Christmas.

Despite these times of uncertainty the PTA have managed to raise almost £5000 this term through the Sponsored walk, Christmas cards and trees sales plus Easy Fundraising.

What a great achievement given the circumstances. As always we extend our gratitude to the PTA for their support of St Lawrence and our thanks with their contribution to the very successful author visit during book week.



Congratulations and well done to Timmy in Year 5 for raising an amazing £1650 for the Molesey Churches Night Shelter charity.

We are very proud of him for running 20 miles in just six days!

Congratulations to Elm House on winning the House Cup this term. They have earned themselves a mufti day on Friday 8th January.



The eco council has been extremely busy this term, working towards regaining a Green Flag for the school. They have put a new eco code in place, as well as setting up litter picking duties and classroom weekly eco awards, and have lots more plans for the future including 'boomerang bags' and taking part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch'. Here are a few tips to help make your Christmas more eco-friendly:

1) Reuse, reduce, recycle – rethink! Christmas is a time of plenty.. of waste! Avoid single use plastic items or things that need lots of batteries. Reuse and recycle gifts where you can. Most wrapping paper contains plastic – why not use brown parcel paper decorated with sprigs of holly or wrap presents up in pretty material or scarves? We also want your old Christmas cards! Please bring them into school in the New Year, so we can recycle them

2) Decorate a tree for the birds! Place seed bells, suet, pine cones with peanut butter, and seed trays on any tree in your garden, preferably a tree in the open where cats can be seen easily by the birds. To attract a wide variety of birds, use varied seed types such as black oil sunflower seed, wild bird mixed seed and nyjer seed bells. This offers an important food source for birds during the winter.

3) Try to walk more and enjoy the nature of Molesey

By George, Laila and Emma - Year 6 Eco Councillors.



## Sports News by Mrs Rey



This term has been quieter than normal in PE terms due to the pandemic. Each class has had two hours of PE sessions a week: one hour taught by our PE specialist, Mr Paddington, and the other taught by their class teacher.

The plan for next term is to continue with one hour of specialist teaching and one hour from their class teacher.

I am hoping to use the Sports Captains more in the Spring and Summer terms when it is safer to mix groups of children to run sessions and promote being active. The School Council group has arranged with me and Miss Carter to have some playground markings for children to use at break and lunchtimes to be more active.

The whole school will be voting this week and the favourite choice or choices will be ordered shortly.

### Year Group topics next term:

Year 3 — Maps and Symbols

Year 4 — Romans

Year 5 — North/South America/Native Americans

Year 6 — Monarchy and WWII

Year 5 are appealing for old 2020 calendars to be saved for their art lessons on Surrealism.

If you could hold onto any from this year we will send out a message when they are ready to receive them.

Thank you.



**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year 2021**

**We look forward to seeing the children  
on Tuesday 5th January**

