

# ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you about our return to school in September. A letter was sent out on Friday 18 June 2021 detailing the teaching staff arrangements for classes next year and I am pleased to inform you that school will be returning to some sort of 'normality' when we return in the new academic year.

However, until the end of this term St Luke's must continue to follow the Government's School COVID-19 Operational Guidance. Please read the following information for parents based on this guidance:

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

As it stands, Wigan and the North-West of England remain areas of concern. COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the area and the advice from Wigan Local Authority's Director of Public Health is that schools continue with the existing Covid-19 control measures until the end of this term. Please follow this link to see their letter to parents, which explains the rationale behind this advice: [http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve\\_file/2153554](http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve_file/2153554)

I am pleased to inform when you that we return to school in September we will no longer require staggered start and finish times. Therefore, school will start at 8:45 am and end at 3:15 pm for everyone.

After seeking the viewpoints of the children we have decided that some of the changes made will remain due to their positive impact on school. Good hygiene practices will remain, wearing of PE kits on designated PE days and staggered lunch and playtimes will remain the same. Please will you take the time to view the the Risk Assessment for the return to school in September on the school website by following this link:

[http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve\\_file/2142005](http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve_file/2142005) There is a guide which summarises the main points of the risk assessment attached to this letter.

Even though there is an easing of restrictions, from September schools are required to have an Outbreak Management Plan to deal with any potential outbreaks within the school or local area. If a local outbreak occurs then many of the current restrictions may have to be put back in place. This could include a return of the staggered start times and the class bubble process. Hopefully, we will avoid an outbreak and we will be able to maintain some sense of

normality. The Outbreak Management Plan can be viewed on the school website by following this link: [http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve\\_file/2142008](http://saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk/serve_file/2142008)

On reflection, it has been a really strange and challenging year for us all. Despite this, I think the whole school community has shown great resilience and positivity throughout. The school staff have been brilliant. At times they've had their school workload doubled along with dealing with the same pressures of any parent in their home life. However, they couldn't have got through this without the amazing support and gratitude received from yourselves. As a parent, I understand the pressures of home learning and dealing with isolating children whilst balancing the pressures of work life. Looking at the progress the children have made, many of you may want to consider a career in education! Thank you for your continued support throughout the lockdown periods, class closures and as we move forward together.

The last half term has allowed us to do some of the normal things such as the Year 6 end of year production and Inspire sessions for the new Reception intake. To be part of that was simply wonderful. It is sad that we are unable to hold our End of Year Award Ceremony with parents and carers but I want you to know it will still be a tremendous celebration of what can be achieved even when we are fighting a pandemic.

I hope you will join me in remaining optimistic that a sense of normality will return and remain during the autumn term and throughout the whole of the next academic year. I hope you all have a well deserved break and a fabulous family holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back safely on Thursday 2 September 2021.

Yours sincerely,

*S Hardaker*

Mr S Hardaker  
Headteacher



## St Luke's C. E. Primary School COVID-19 Advice for Parents September 2021

As the country moves into Step 4 of the roadmap, the government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to Pupils and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to Pupils are extremely low. By following and adhering to the full risk assessment, which can be found on the school website, we will ensure that St Luke's C.E. can prioritise the delivery of face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils.

***This leaflet contains a summary of the main information from the risk assessment for parents and pupils to ensure a safe return to 'normality'.***

### **ATTENDANCE:**

- ✚ All classes start the school day at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm.
- ✚ School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age
- ✚ It is a priority to ensure that pupils regularly attend school.
- ✚ All clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and young people should attend school.



### **SCHOOL LIFE:**

- ✚ Pupils will continue to attend school in their full PE kit on their designated PE day.
- ✚ Pupils are allowed to bring bags and other appropriate belongings to school.
- ✚ Reading books and library books can be sent home and returned on a regular basis.



### **HYGIENE:**

- ✚ Face coverings are no longer required and are optional for staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.
- ✚ Hand hygiene – frequent and thorough hand cleaning should continue to be regular practice using soap or hand sanitiser.
- ✚ Respiratory hygiene – the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be important.



### **TESTING AND ISOLATING:**

- ✚ From 16/8/2021, whole year groups are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case in their class. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace (this may be via school), informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
- ✚ Pupils, staff and other adults should follow current public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they

have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

- ✚ If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and should follow current public health advice.
- ✚ Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.
- ✚ Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.
- ✚ If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

***The risk assessment will be regularly monitored and updated in accordance with the school structures and needs and in response to any changes implemented by Government public health advice.***

***The risk assessment is written alongside the School Outbreak Management Plan and will change accordingly in order to prioritise the safety of pupils, staff, families and the public. As a result, this may mean a return to some of the previous safety precautions in place during the pandemic.***