

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure many of you are awaiting the news of how school will re-open. Over the last week many things have changed and continuously do so as the government 'drip-feed' their advice to schools. At St Luke's Church of England Primary School we endeavour to get our children back into education as soon as possible. However, this can only be done once we are assured that the school is as safe as it possibly can be for our children and staff.

The government has made clear that schools will only open once the five tests they have stipulated have been met. At the time of writing those have not been achieved.

As soon as school received information about the proposed re-opening, we immediately began to consider our plans and form a stringent risk assessment. The government has produced numerous documents detailing the actions schools will have to take prior to increasing the numbers of children returning. As you can imagine, we still have a number of challenges to overcome if we are to gradually to re-open our school.

We are working with all the schools in our locality, Wigan Council, school staff, specialist health and safety advisors and unions in order to work towards the safe and gradual opening of school for children, families and staff.

Through our risk assessment we have identified measures that will need to be put in place to achieve this:

- Organising the class sizes into smaller groups to help maintain social distancing. In order to achieve the current social distancing measures, the classrooms at St Lukes will only accommodate up to 10 pupils per group, although we cannot guarantee that, despite the measures we put in to place, social distancing can be maintained with such young children.
- Children will remain in the same group at all times. They will be unable to mix with other groups.
- Children will have the same teacher, but this might not be their usual class teacher.
- Staggered start and finish times.
- Homeschooling resources will continue to be made available to all children.
- All desks will be positioned 2 metres apart as best as we can.
- Soft furnishings and toys will be removed from classrooms.
- Small equipment which cannot be easily cleaned will not be used, including IT equipment.
- There will be staggered break times and no mixing of groups.

- There will be additional cleaning throughout the day, the week and a deep clean to take place each Friday afternoon when school will be closed to all pupils.

We have planned to re-open over several phases. Although this plan is subject to change. The government would like schools to begin re-opening by allowing younger children from Reception Class and Year One. Although I believe it is easier to social distance older pupils we are following the government advice, therefore we are re-opening to Reception and Year One children during the first phase. Following the advice of Wigan Council and falling in line with other local schools, **the earliest start date for Reception and Year One's return will be on Monday 8 June 2020, dependent on the Government meeting all their five tests and their advice at the time.** As this is an ever changing situation it is possible that Government guidance may change and subsequently affect this proposed date.

We will not be open to Year Six at this stage. However, the provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers will remain the same and school will be open to those children who have booked a place from Monday 1 June 2020.

We have prepared an information leaflet on how the school environment will look, both visually and operationally, so that you can prepare your children in advance of their return. Again, as this is an ever changing situation it is possible that we may have to revise this leaflet before we begin our phased return to school.

We will contact all parents via class DOJO who have indicated that they intend to send their child back to school. We will provide information on which class class teacher and classroom your child has been allocated.

This has been a very difficult letter to write and I understand many of you may be upset about its content. I really wish I was writing to you under very different and more positive circumstances. I apologise that we are unable to accommodate Year Six at this stage. Hopefully in my next correspondence I will be writing to you with an update for Year Six and with news of class arrangements for September 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, understanding and support during which has been a difficult time for us all. We have received many gestures of kindness and you have worked wonders, particularly with the homeschooling. It's been a joy to see the wonderful things you have achieved. I would also like to thank the staff of St Luke's who have gone over and above in ensuring home learning for your children and supporting our key worker children. They are an unbelievable team who I have the privilege to lead and work with every day.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hardaker
Headteacher



SCHOOL MEMBER

