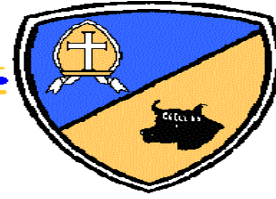


ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Church Lane
Lowton
Warrington
WA3 2PW



01942 201140



www.saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Hardaker e-mail enquiries@admin.saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk

05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I had hoped to be writing to you today to wish you all a happy new year and tell you about the many activities we had planned for our children this term. However, following the UK Government's announcement at 8:00pm yesterday evening that schools must close from today it is with a very heavy heart that I again find myself having to write to you to inform you that, according to last night's announcement, St Luke's will be closed to all but vulnerable and 'Key Worker' children until February half term at the earliest. The Government announcement and media coverage was the first confirmation to schools that we would have to close and we are still awaiting updated Government Guidance – as late as yesterday morning Prime Minister Johnson was urging parents to send their children back to primary schools and we were preparing to welcome you back, but by 8:00pm he confirmed that schools are 'vectors' for the spread of the infection.

St Luke's will remain partially open to vulnerable and 'Key Worker' children and arrangements will be as follows:

Vulnerable Children – school will directly contact the parents of vulnerable children today to offer eligible children a place.

Key Worker Children – Places will be allocated according to the latest UK Government definition of a 'Key Worker'. Priority will be given to families where both parents are classed as 'Key Workers' and single parent families where the parent that the child resides with is classed as a 'Key Worker' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Places will be allocated on eligibility and not a first come first served basis.

The purpose of the partial closure is to minimise the number of children in school to control the spread of the highly infectious new variant of Covid-19 and places are limited to allow for social distancing and increased infection control measures. We therefore request that you only apply for and take up an offered place if you have no alternative options. You must only bring your child to school tomorrow if we offer you a place later today.

To apply for a 'Key Worker' place please:

- Email enquiries@admin.saintlukes.wigan.sch.uk by **12:00 noon today**.
- Provide proof of occupation for both parents (unless single parent family where the parent that the child resides with is a 'Key Worker') if this was not provided during the partial closure during the Summer Term. However, I must stress that we have to give priority to children where both parents are classed as key workers and single parent families where the parent that the child resides with is classed as a key worker.

The allocation of places during the previous closure does not guarantee a place this time where only one parent is classed as a 'Key Worker'.

If you have already emailed school or sent a Class Dojo message we still need you to respond this morning to ensure we have the correct information.

Your child's class teacher will contact you later today, via Class Dojo, with arrangements for Distance Learning.

Please remember, these measures are based on the government's scientific research with the aim to slow the infection rate and protect the vulnerable in our community and by following current government advice we will achieve this more quickly.

We fully understand that this is a difficult time for all of our families and we ask you to appreciate that it is also a very difficult time for school staff who are unable to self-protect themselves.

As this is an ever-changing situation I am sure that I will be writing to you again soon, and when we receive more government direction about reopening our school we will contact you immediately.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and Governors, I would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding and support throughout these difficult times. You have been truly amazing in your support for the measures we have put in place to keep St Luke's open and as safe as we possibly can. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

S Hardaker

Mr S Hardaker
Headteacher

