



ST LUKE'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Foundation) Headteacher: Mr Gareth Dutton

Monday, 13th July 2020

Dear Parents

RE: Arrangements for a September return for all children

Thank you so much for your huge commitment to home schooling during recent months. We greatly appreciate your support.

I am writing to you all today to provide some very important updates in relation to announcements made by the Department for Education and the return to school for all children in September 2020. This is welcome news for all, especially those who have not been eligible to attend to date.

Whilst we have been open for specific year groups, children of critical workers, as well as those deemed 'vulnerable', we have greatly missed all the children and it is evident that this has been reciprocated by them. Whilst resources provided by staff to support home learning have been well thought through and greatly received by families, face to face learning and the social interactions children have in school cannot be replaced online. It has become increasingly evident that St Luke's C.E. Primary School, as well as others like us, provide so much more for children and their families than 'the curriculum' and this has been widely felt.

We must be mindful that guidance may be provided by the government between now and September that impacts on how our school is managed and circumstances may dictate additional considerations. We will of course adapt and improvise where necessary, but at this time we are planning on a full return of all children to St Luke's in September. I will address each area in the format of frequently asked questions.

What changes will be made for September?

As part of planning for a full return in the autumn term, we have revisited and updated our risk assessment (building on the learning to date and the practices they have already developed), to consider the additional risks and control measures to enable a return to full capacity in the autumn term.

We will implement sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level. Our protective measures include:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

What date will children start back?

The first day back for children will be **Thursday 3rd September 2020**. Staff will be returning to school during the week leading up to this.

How will you minimise contact between people?

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, it is important that we minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Children will be in consistent groups (their class or year group) which reduces the risk of transmission by limiting the number of children and staff in contact with each other. Younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group. Children will stay in their groups for the majority of the classroom time. All staff can work across different groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable, but this will be kept to a minimum to limit the number of staff in contact with different groups.

To limit the number of groups in contact with each other, we will stagger the start and end times for all year groups, as shown below. We will, however, retain the same amount of teaching time as if the school was open as normal.

<u>Year groups</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>
Nursery	Acre Road	8.45 (morning & all-day) or 12.15 (afternoon)	11.45 (morning) or 15.15 (afternoon & all-day)
Reception, Year 1 & Year 2	Elm Road	8.50	15.20
Year 3 & Year 4	Elm Road	8.40	15.10
Year 5 & Year 6	Elm Road	8.30	15.00

One way system to drop off children



All children will have a temperature check before coming into the school building. Nursery children will be checked by the gate into the nursery, whilst the checks will take place on the lower playground for children from Reception to Year 6. Parents with children in Years 3 to 6 (KS2) should drop their children at the Elm Road green gate at the time listed and they will then have a temperature check before walking to their classroom. Parents with children in Reception or Years 1 or 2 should accompany their children (one parent only please) for the check on the playground and then walk with them to drop them at their classroom. Siblings may be brought in and collected at the same time. All children will sanitise their hands upon entry and exit to the school.

Parents should follow the one-way system as shown on the map when dropping off children and wait outside the classrooms at the times listed to collect children at the end of the day. Parents and children should do their best to minimise the contact with other children and adults at drop off and collection times.

To keep yourself safe when dropping off / collecting your children, please stick strictly to the timings for your child's group and ensure that your child stays with you whilst waiting. Families are asked to walk if possible rather than using the car or public transport and you should avoid sharing cars or giving lifts to members of a different household. We ask for younger siblings to be in a buggy / carrier if they are not able to respect social distancing guidelines due to their age.

Adaptations to the classrooms will be made to support distancing where possible. This includes seating children side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on, and unnecessary furniture will be moved out of classrooms to make more space. We will circulate photographs of the classrooms prior to your children returning in September.

Groups will be kept apart, meaning that we will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship. These will be provided by video conference instead.

Movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum. Although the risk is low when passing briefly in the corridor or playground, we will avoid creating busy corridors, entrances and exits. Therefore, in addition to staggering starting and end times, we will also stagger playtimes and lunchtimes.

What will children be taught?

Our school staff are working hard to ensure we have highly effective arrangements in place to help children catch up with lost learning in the autumn. Our curriculum and timetable will be more flexible to respond to the different needs of the children. We will prioritise their wellbeing and emotional response to the pandemic by including lots of personal and social education, wellbeing, creative arts and outdoor learning as well as Reading, Writing and Maths. I am excited by the passion of our staff to make sure no child is left behind. You can read about our approach to a recovery curriculum on our website (click [HERE](#)).

Is attendance mandatory in September?

Yes. Mandatory attendance will be introduced when the new academic year starts to ensure children do not fall any further behind.

What happens at lunchtime? Will the school offer hot lunches?

The kitchen will be fully operational from the start of the autumn term and offer hot lunches to children, including those eligible for free school meals or universal infant free school meals. School meals should be ordered using the normal online booking system.

Children who have a hot lunch will eat in the hall on tables reserved for individual groups. Children with packed lunches will eat their lunch in their classroom.

After the children have finished their lunch, they will go outside (weather permitting) to enjoy their lunchtime break with the rest of their group. Mixing of groups will be limited as groups will play in specific parts of our outdoor space, e.g. trim trail, compound, lower playground, etc.

Will children go on educational trips?

Yes. We recognise that educational trips are a very important part of education, providing lifelong memories to be made so we are very pleased that schools are allowed to resume non-overnight domestic educational visits in the autumn term. We will, however, avoid using public transport during the autumn term. We will make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support delivery of the curriculum.

As overnight trips are not currently allowed in the autumn term, we have had to sadly cancel the residential trips to Hindleap Warren (Year 5) and to Sayers Croft (Year 4). We know how much the children enjoy these trips and the educational value they represent so we hope to reinstate both trips once the restrictions are lifted.

Will clubs be available? Will the After School Club and Breakfast Club be available?

We can resume breakfast, after-school and extra-curricular clubs from the start of the autumn term. This will help children to re-engage with their friends and with the school. If it is not possible to maintain bubbles being used during the school day then we will use small, consistent groups. The clubs pack will be sent out at the beginning of September, but unfortunately, some clubs may be unavailable from the beginning due to restrictions still being in place, e.g. contact sport clubs.

Do the children need to wear school uniform?

Yes. As wearing school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school, we will return to our usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Click [HERE](#) for our uniform information.

Can children bring their bag / pencil case into school?

Children may bring in their St Luke's backpacks and Year 6 children may use their own (small) bag as normal. All children will be provided an individual stationery pack containing all the resources they need, but they may also bring in their own stationery in a pencil case if they would like to.

Do children need to bring a snack?

Under normal circumstances, there is a scheme for schools to access free fruit for children in Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2. As the scheme stopped operating in March and has not restarted yet, please can parents provide their children a daily fruit snack. We will let parents know when the scheme is operational again.

What will happen if a child shows symptoms of COVID-19?

Children should not come into the school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days. Anyone displaying symptoms during the school day will be sent home to self-isolate for at least 7 days and parents should arrange to have a test. Other members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days. We will use a private room for any children awaiting collection and PPE will be worn by staff caring for any children if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

Can my child wear PPE?

As we have effective measures for cleaning and hygiene, children are not to wear PPE in school, which includes wearing face coverings and face masks. This is in line with the guidance from the government.

Will the school use supply staff?

Schools are allowed to engage supply teachers and other supply staff from the autumn term. We will follow our usual practice, using our own staff to cover but if this is not possible we will use our regular supply agency to book cover staff.

Will I still be able to visit the school office?

The office will remain closed unless an appointment is made. We request that parents contact the school office by telephone or email.

What will the school do if a local lockdown occurs?

Where a group or small number of children need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring our children to remain at home, we will offer immediate remote education. We have purchased Wonde, which

we hope will be fully operational in September, providing children with one simple login using an emoji password. Once children have logged in, it connects them to all of our educational apps making them instantly accessible, including Google applications. We will use the Google Classrooms to set assignments so that children have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects. We will plan a programme that is equivalent to the core teaching children would receive in school, with daily contacts with teachers where possible. We will contact children regularly to gauge how well they are progressing through the curriculum.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding over the last few months. We are looking forward now to September with optimism and determination to provide excellent education and care for every one of our children.

Kind regards,

Gareth Dutton
Headteacher