



ST LUKE'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Foundation) Headteacher: Mr Gareth Dutton

Friday, 26th March 2021

Dear Parents

RE: 8th March return for all children

This week, the Prime Minister laid out the Government's 'Road map' to take the country out of the current lockdown. As widely reported, schools are at the very top of the list, notably primary schools. Therefore, we are delighted to be able to welcome back all children to the school on Monday 8th March!

However, it is not a return to full normality yet. St Luke's staff have not yet been vaccinated and certainly none of the children have, which means that the risk of infection has not changed. Staff members are regularly testing themselves with Lateral Flow Tests so if there is any infection it can be caught quickly and the impact kept to a minimum. All of the rules and arrangements set up in September will continue. Children will be hand washing / sanitising throughout the day and all breaktimes will remain staggered for different year groups. Please see overleaf for some frequently asked questions. Additional information about our arrangements can be accessed on our website – click [here](#).

We recognise that the period of lockdown has been lengthy and our children have not experienced a normal week in school all winter. Therefore, it would ideal if you could support your child / children as they adjust back into usual 'school' habits and routines. Over the next couple of weeks, please prepare them for returning to school by regularising sleeping habits and ensuring that they take part in as many remote learning activities as possible. Also, it would help if you could fit in additional exercise. Walks around Richmond Park are great at this time of year, particularly with the improvement in the weather, longer days and spring flowers. These don't need to be every day but our experience after the last lockdown was that several children did not have the stamina for the longer school days and by half term some were really flagging.

The staff will spend the next two weeks preparing the school and classrooms for the children's return. During this period, remote learning will continue to be provided. In addition, staff will also be planning for the last four weeks of term to ensure a smooth transition from remote to school-based learning. Of course, there still remains the possibility that a class / year group may have to close due to a positive COVID case, in which case we will follow our remote learning procedures, using Google Classroom accessed through the Wonde platform.

As ever, we have been extremely busy this term, improving various parts of the school and the hall and the new library both look very smart! We are also planning how we can best use our Chromebooks so that we can combine the best of traditional teaching with some of the new tricks that we have all learned over the last year. In short, we can't wait to have the children back!

We ask you to continue to wear facemasks and to leave the site as quickly as possible once you have collected your children. This is to protect our whole community. If we are careful and follow the school rules and Government guidance we can rebuild our school community quickly and minimise the chance of any further disruption to the children's learning.

Without doubt, this has been an unprecedented year however, thanks to your support, the continued development of remote learning by our staff and the enthusiasm from the children, we believe we have all worked together to make this as successful an experience as possible.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards

Gareth Dutton
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions

What date will all children start back in school?

The first day back for all children to attend school will be **Monday 8th March 2021**.

What are the start and end times for children?

As minimising contacts and mixing between people is still very important to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19, we will still limit the number of groups in contact with each other by staggering the start and end times for all year groups, with the timings as shown in the table below. If you have multiple children at the school, for your convenience, please drop off and collect them all at the same time – the timings should be based on your eldest child. For example, if you have a child in Year 1 and in Year 5, drop them off at 8.30am and collect them at 3.00pm.

Year groups	Entry	Start Time	End Time
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

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 any lost learning. Our curriculum and timetables will be more flexible to respond to the different needs of the children. We will prioritise their wellbeing by including lots of personal and social education, wellbeing, creative arts and outdoor learning as well as reading, writing and mathematics.

Will the school offer hot lunches?

As in the autumn term, the kitchen will 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 (click [here](#)).

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

Yes, our breakfast and after school clubs will continue to be available as normal. The booking forms will be sent out to parents shortly. At the time of writing, we are also planning to offer an Easter holiday club. Confirmation and further details about this will follow shortly.

We will offer the majority of our extra-curricular clubs for the four remaining weeks of the spring term. To reduce the number of visitors coming into the school, we will only offer clubs run by school staff. By offering our internal clubs we will help children to re-engage with their friends and with the school. We will use the registers originally created for this term and these, plus the club timetable, will be circulated to parents with this letter. We hope to return to our full club offer for the summer term including external paid for clubs.

When will catch-up tutoring be offered?

We plan to offer tuition sessions straight away from Monday 8th March. Tuition will be offered to the children who were previously identified for groups this term and teaching staff will contact families to confirm days and timings. We are aware that there will be a greater number of children who would benefit from tuition so we plan to increase our tuition offer for the summer term.

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 (click [here](#)). We are aware that it is very difficult to buy school shoes at the present moment and that your children may have outgrown their school shoes. Therefore, all children are permitted to wear trainers for the remainder of the spring term. We will review this, subject to the opening of non-essential shops, which is scheduled for no sooner than early April.

When should we return borrowed Chromebooks?

To reduce the amount of contact with the office staff, any borrowed Chromebooks (and charging leads) should be returned through your children's school bag on their return in March. We would be grateful if you could clean the machine before returning it to school. Chromebooks will continue to be available for families to borrow if any of the classes / year groups need to isolate and access remote learning from home.