



ST LUKE'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Foundation) Headteacher: Mr Gareth Dutton

Thursday, 11th June 2020

Dear Parents

RE: Returning to school update

Thank you very much for all of the positive messages and feedback that we have received during the partial closure and phased reopening of the school. We are delighted to have welcomed many children back to St Luke's since we reopened last week and it has been especially gratifying for the staff to see the children's smiling faces again and to hear the buzz of learning returning to the school. We are especially proud of the resilience that the children have shown in adapting to our new, socially distanced, classrooms. I am also very proud of the hard work that my staff have put in which has allowed us to be one of the 52% of all schools in the country to welcome back children.

As you will be aware by now, the government is no longer planning to open schools more widely to further year groups before the summer holidays. We recognise that for many of you this was not the news you wanted to hear. Please be assured that we share your sense of disappointment and that there is nothing that we, as educators, would like more than to reopen the school as widely as possible. However, we have to make decisions based on all the information that is currently available to us, adhere to the Government's guidelines and balance these with the health of the children, staff and local community.

At the time of writing this letter, the local authority and the government have directed schools to continue to offer education to children in nursery, reception, Year 1, Year 6 and to children of priority groups such as key workers. The most recent change to the guidance for schools is that those with greater capacity, such as junior schools and larger primaries, have been offered the flexibility to take back more pupils, if they can do so safely.

At St Luke's, we are currently using every classroom and every available staff member to teach the children in the year groups, that were originally specified by the government, in a way that is consistent with the social distancing guidance for educational settings. This includes having no more than 15 children in a bubble and staff not teaching across different bubbles. Therefore, unless there is a revision of these guidelines, we do not anticipate that we will have the capacity to admit other year groups to school before the summer holidays.

We are committed to continuing to offer an educational provision via Google Classroom and our Learning Projects and, as we have done so far, we will continue to review and develop our provision. Teachers are still contactable via the school office on phone, email or via the Google classroom, but please bear with them if they cannot respond immediately, as they are also teaching a bubble of children whilst maintaining their distance learning provision.

The picture for September is still very fluid at this point and I am also unable to say exactly what schooling will look like in the autumn term. However, over the coming weeks and months we will be monitoring the situation very closely, reacting to any revisions in government guidance and keeping you informed of any changes.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

Gareth Dutton
Headteacher

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