

8/7/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back on Thursday 3rd September. These have been the most challenging times for all of us and we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

It is the government’s plan that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the Autumn Term.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why we will be putting in place a range of protective measures. Equally, we have to put in place strict measures to protect all adults in the school environment as they are at a much higher risk than the pupils are.

In order to effectively manage the risks, things will be slightly different when children return to school for the new academic year - including a range of protective measures.

**Government Guidelines**

Alongside, these measures the government is asking schools to ensure they are:

* managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self- isolate for 14 days by school (based on advice from the local health protection team) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
* ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
* ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
* enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
* minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible - this will involve asking children to stay within specified year group bubbles and through maintaining distance between individuals. The government’s guidance to schools recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social

distancing so for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children, it will be on distancing.

If any school experiences an outbreak, either because they have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff in their setting within 14 days, or they see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), they will need to contact their local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school or college will generally not be necessary.

**School Attendance**

It is important that children return to school in September for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. **School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year.** For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply from September 2020.

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

Some families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.

**Curriculum**

The government has set out clear expectations on what schools are expected to teach when pupils return in September. St. Luke’s CE will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects whilst acknowledging that some catch up will be necessary. There will be a strong emphasis supporting pupil well-being and mental health when they return to school. There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and music - to ensure they can be delivered as safely as possible. Specialist teaching will continue to go ahead.

We will also make plans for the provision of remote education where needed, to ensure that the small number of children that need to be educated at home, for example, due to shielding or self-isolation, are given the support they need to continue learning.

The amendments made to the school behaviour policy will continue in September to reflect the new school rules that are required from the Autumn Term. All Parents have received a copy of these new rules via ParentMail.

**Equipment and Uniform**

It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school. Children will only be allowed to bring the St. Luke’s school book bag (which can be purchased from the uniform suppliers), a labelled water bottle, a fruit snack for KS2, lunch box and coat.

We will be returning to the usual uniform policy in the Autumn Term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Although, they do need to be cleaned on a regular basis as usual. However, on your child’s PE days, instead of coming into school wearing school uniform they will need to wear their outdoor PE kit and their trainers. Please ensure your child has a black or blue plain tracksuit, PE t-shirt, PE shorts, pumps and trainers. We will tell you which days your child has PE in September.

**School Dinners**

The school kitchen should be fully open from the start of the Autumn Term, and they will provide free school meals and universal infant free school meals as usual for those who are eligible. Meals will be paid for online and booked in the usual way via Dolce. Lunchtimes will be staggered differently from September to reduce numbers in the dining hall at any one time.

**Educational Day Trips**

The latest government information states that schools can in the Autumn Term, resume educational day trips. This is in line with the latest public health guidance and wider guidance for schools and on the actions they can take to reduce risks.

**Breakfast and Afterschool Club**

**School will be permitted to run breakfast and after-school clubs.** Therefore, before and after school club will be open from September. We will need to make sure these clubs can be delivered in line with the wider guidance on protective measures, so we may need to run things a little differently and adapt these over time. If you require Breakfast Club (£3 per session starts at 7.45am) or After School Club (£5.50 per session last collection 5.45pm) please book via ParentMail – bookings must be made 7 days in advance. Bookings cannot be taken on the day.

I hope you are gaining a sense of ‘normality’ for September, as we genuinely want all of our pupils to return to school in September 2020. Details of start and finish staggered times are provided with this letter. Please ensure you adhere to the times given.

As school receives updates during the summer, we will continue to keep you informed. Although, school is closed over summer we are still working in the background to ensure a smooth start in September. Although, all of our decisions are subject to any imposed localised or wider restrictions.

Many thanks,

Kim Farrall

Headteacher

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - September 2020 Staggered Start and End of the School Day**

As part of the protective measures, we will need to stagger and adjust start and finish school times. This helps keep groups apart on the way to and from school and as pupils arrive, and leave the premises. This will not result in reduced teaching time for your child, as the time will be compensated for where necessary. These staggered times must be strictly adhered to. Please do not arrive early or late.

If you have more than one child in your family you can drop them off and collect at the same time; please use the earlier sibling time slot. For example, if you have children in Y6 and Y3 please arrive at school for 8.45am and collect at 3.00pm. Please drop off and collect each child from their own classroom doors.

**YR Bluebells and Snowdrops –** Enter though main office gate and children to go through the Reception Shelter entrance to enter classrooms.

**Start of the school day: 9.00am End of the school day: 3.10pm**

**Y1 Willow and Oak –** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Year 1 to enter school though Year 1 classrooms doors which are off the front playground.

**Start of the school day: 8.45am End of the school day: 3pm**

**Year 2 Ash -** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Year 2 children to enter school through the side door behind the Year 1 classrooms.

**Start of the school day: 8.55am End of the school day: 3.10pm**

**Year 3 Birch and Cedar -** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Cedar to walk around the back of the new build and enter through the 4th door into their classroom. Birch to walk around the back of the new build and enter their classroom door through the double doors off the back playground.

**Start of the school day: 9.05am End of the school day: 3.20pm**

**Year 4 Maple and Hawthorn -** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Maple to enter through the first classroom door of the new build. Hawthorn to walk around the back of the new build and enter via the 3rd classroom door.

**Start of the school day: 9.15am End of the school day: 3.30pm**

**Year 5 Pine and Juniper -** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Juniper to enter through the 2nd classroom door on the front of the new build. Pine to walk around the back of the new build and enter via the 2nd classroom door.

**Start of the school day: 8.55am End of the school day: 3.10pm**

**Year 6 Sycamore -** Enter through large pupil gate and exit via small pupil gate. Sycamore to walk around the back of the new build and enter via the 1st classroom door.

**Start of the school day: 8.45am until 3.00pm**

**If you require Breakfast Club (£3 per session starts at 7.45am) or After School Club (£5.50 per session last collection 5.45pm) please book via ParentMail – bookings must be made one week in advance.**