

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of the Spring term

I would like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year and welcome you and your children back to school for the start of the Spring term. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and that the children have returned rested and ready to crack on with the learning that the teachers have in store. The second half of the Autumn term in schools is always so busy. The Spring term however, offers the opportunity for consistency and routine to return, and we are all looking forward to seeing how much progress the children can make in their learning going forward.

Support for children with SEN

We resume the school year with one change to staffing that you are already aware of; We welcome Matthew Tranter to our school as our SENCO. Matthew is also the SENCO at Seven Mills Primary School. He comes with a very good reputation and we are all looking forward to welcoming him into our community and working with him.

Matthew will be part time with us. Later in the year, we will seek to recruit to the role of SENCO, however we wanted to reduce the disruption to the current classes which have started the year so well.

As such, the following members of staff will also be supporting Matthew's work:

- Rebecca Abrahams, Executive headteacher, will lead on the Team Around the Child meetings for individual children and their families.
- Jess Tough, Deputy Headteacher, and Amelia Sheppard, Assistant headteacher, will be working with teachers to ensure that all of the teaching and learning interventions that individual children need, are happening routinely and the children's progress from those is being assessed and shared with Matthew to inform any further planning that needs to be done.
- Rachel Harvey, our Designated Leader for Safeguarding, and previously our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, will be supporting Matthew in coordinating children's Annual Reviews.

As ever, if you have a question regarding the provision for your child, the best person to speak with in the first instance, would be the class teacher.



If you would like to speak to Matthew as the SENCO, the best way to contact him would be via email to: mtranter@stlukeslondon.org If you do contact Matthew by email, please be mindful that he works part time for us and therefore it may take longer for him to respond to you.

If you are struggling to get the support that you need, then please email me directly: executivehead@stlukeslondon.org

Despite these changes, please rest assured there is no reduction in our determination to meet the needs of your children. It is timely discussion and honesty that will keep our partnership strong and ensure that this happens.

New member of staff

We welcome one new member of staff to our team this week and that is Steven Daley. Steven has worked with us before in a voluntary capacity and we are delighted to be able to offer him the role of Midday Supervisor here at St. Luke's.

Steven covers Ami Spillman who starts her maternity leave this term. We wish Ami and her family well for the speedy and safe arrival of their new baby imminently.

Illnesses in the community

As we return to school, I wanted to write to update you on the latest guidance around Covid. The Department for Education has also recently issued a reminder – [What Are the Latest Covid-19 Rules in Schools?](#)

I also ask that you have general vigilance around the many other illnesses going round at the moment e.g. scarlet fever and flu and to exercise common sense around sending your child to school if they are unwell. Further examples of this are below which I hope will act as useful guidance.

General

- Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, **can continue to attend school**.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature **should stay at home**. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

On this point, it is vital that we do not mask a high temperature with paracetamol and then send the child into school, hoping as the paracetamol wears off the temperature will not return if the temperature is a symptom of an underlying infection.

If we are managing a high temperature associated with infection, the child should remain away from school until the paracetamol is no longer required.

An exception to this would be if the temperature is related to something like teething, when with doctor's/dentist's advice, and prescribed paracetamol, the school could be requested to administer the paracetamol and the child could be in school.

- All children with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a **disposable tissue** when coughing and/or sneezing and to **wash their hands** after using or disposing of tissues. The staff in school will continue to facilitate regular handwashing and good respiratory hygiene.

COVID

The Government guidance recommends that children are not tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.



If staff or pupils do take a test, the advice about how long to stay away from work is different for adults and children as younger people are infectious for a shorter period of time.

Children if tested, stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they take the test, even if symptom free. After this time, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature they can return to school.

If a test is NOT taken and children have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, including a high temperature, or they do not feel well enough to go to school, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they no longer have a high temperature (if they had one) or until they no longer feel unwell.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

If you do have any queries, please contact me on: executivehead@stlukeslondon.org

Attendance

Clearly, the amount of illness in the community and the drive to improve children's attendance can feel at odds with each other. If you received a letter from me last term about your child's attendance being below certain thresholds, you may feel angry and I understand that.

However, I think I would urge us all to consider this.

We know that children's regular attendance at school, benefits their learning and therefore contributes towards their opportunities in life as they get older – and that is what every parent wants for their child.

Clearly if children are unwell, their attendance will be disrupted.

To keep the disruption to a minimum, following the guidance should hopefully restrict the spread of infection and therefore reduce the number of children getting unwell and needing to be absent. Essentially, if we have children in school who should not be in school, more children will get unwell.

Please know therefore, that as a parent, I understand only too well the level of challenge, but also know that it is by working together in partnership, that we will manage this as well as we are able to.

Key dates

Please note the following key dates from our calendar for this term:



Spring term 2023					
17	Monday 09 January	Epiphany 06/01 World Religion Day 15/01	Monday 09 January	Epiphany Mass – children will attend church this morning	Years 1 - 6
18	Monday 16 January	Chinese New Year 22/01	Tuesday 17 January at 1:00pm on Zoom	Year 2 SATs Parent meeting	Year 2 parents and carers
			Thursday 19 January 1:00pm on Zoom	Year 6 SATs Parent meeting	Year 6 parents and carers
			Thursday 19 January	Year 5 Cherry Class Assembly	Parents and carers of children in Cherry class
19	Monday 23 January	Holocaust Memorial Day 27/01	Thursday 26 January	St. Paul's Service for all schools in the London Diocese	Children will be selected to attend and represent St. Luke's
20	Monday 30 January	NSPCC Maths day 03/02 Children's Mental Health week Candlemas 02/02	These will be held on Wednesday 01 and Thursday 02 February between 2 and 6pm in school	Parent Consultations for children in Nursery, Reception and Years 1 - 6	All parents and carers
			Friday 03 February	NSPCC Maths Day	Whole school community
21	Monday 06 February	Safer Internet Day 07/02	Wednesday 08 February at 2:30pm in school	Reception Daily Supported Reading Workshop	Parents and carers of children in Reception
			Thursday 09 February	Year 4 Spruce Class Assembly	Parents and carers of children in Spruce class
	Monday 13 February	Half term: Energy Kidz Holiday scheme in operation			

The teachers are busy finalising their newsletters to you and they will be with you shortly.

The schools normal weekly newsletter will resume next Friday 13th January 2023.

And then just one more point. Attached to this letter is a flyer from an organisation called Musical Mayhem. They have been working with us for a number of years now and I know the children really enjoy their provision. They wanted me to let you know that if you would like your child to try the provision first before committing to the club, then they are welcome to attend next Friday 13th January, free of charge.

With best wishes for the term ahead,

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Abrahams

Executive headteacher

