

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School

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Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Update of possible reopening of schools**

Following on from the government announcement on the possible reopening of schools from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, and the newsletter sent to you last week, I am writing to you with further information on how we plan to expand the in-school provision at St. Luke's over the coming weeks.

### **Current position**

To recap, the government's guidance currently states that **if** they inform us that it is safe, schools can begin to open to pupils other than those already eligible to currently be in school, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. However, as I explained in the newsletter last week, in order to ensure that our planning process is as rigorous as is possible, we anticipate that we will be able to begin to reopen to those year groups in the week beginning **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**, for a phased return.

### **Next steps for school**

Before we can open to increasing numbers of children, if the government's announcement on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May is in favour of going ahead, the governing body of St. Luke's must approve the school's the risk assessments and plans. They are meeting to discuss this during the evening of Monday 01 June.

Additionally to seeking governor approval, the leadership of the school is working closely with our staff and their union representatives to seek to ensure that the plans enable them to feel that they can return to work safely. Meetings in this regard are ongoing, but it is important to mention that we intend to use the week beginning the 01 June for support and training, to ensure that risk assessments and plans can be understood fully and implemented safely.

The health and safety of pupils and staff is our highest priority. Therefore, we have started to create a detailed plan on how we can begin to reopen the school safely and would like to share that with you today because we think that will help to inform your decision-making.

### **Capacity**

In terms of capacity, it is important that you are aware that we intend to admit up to the following numbers next half term:



- **Phase 1: In the first two weeks: One third of each year group, therefore up to and no more than 20 children;**
- **Phase 2: Across the half term: One half of each year group, therefore up to and no more than 30 children.**

In line with the guidance received, we feel this is possible, however we do not have the physical space to take any more children than that into each year group, this half term. Remote learning will continue for all children choosing to stay at home.

### Next steps for parents

**Following the government's announcement on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, parents of children in the year groups named above must email the school if they would like their children to return to school, by the end of the day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, in order to inform our planning.** What you have shared with us so far has been a helpful indication to inform our planning, however after the 29<sup>th</sup> May, if plans are moving forward, we will need definite numbers.

If you are not able to make a decision at that point, please note that we will repeat this process on a fortnightly basis, based on our capacity at that time, and any further guidance that is published. This means if you observe what is happening, and decided later into the half term that you would like your child to return after all, you will be able to request that and we will consider whether that is possible given our risk assessments and given the number of children on site.

To request your child's place please observe the following:

- If your child is in **Nursery** or **Reception**, please email: [head@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)
- If your child is in **Year 1**, please email: [nimesha.nagahawatte@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:nimesha.nagahawatte@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)
- If your child is in **Year 6**, please email: [cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:cristina.king@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

**Key Workers' children, in years Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, who have been attending during this period of 'closure' will not need to re-apply. We will automatically move those children from the Key Worker provision to the Year Group provision.**

### Key points which you will want to be aware of:

- Children will be in year groups and they will be distributed with up to and no more than 15 children in each year group classroom. (12 for nursery) Each year group is referred to as a 'Bubble' and we will keep the 'Bubbles' apart at all points of the school day. However, we cannot guarantee social distancing within individual bubbles at all times, especially when the children are playing;
- If you have a child in **Nursery**, please note that the provision that we are able to provide is based on that which your child received before the school closure. This means, for example, that if your child had a part-time morning place, this will remain the case going forward;
- Children will be taught by the same adults every day, and these will be members of staff that they are familiar with, but may not necessarily be their current teacher and teaching assistant;
- Children will be provided with a cold school lunch, which will be brought to them in class, in order to avoid gatherings in the school dining hall;
- Children will have staggered break and lunch times in order to ensure that they are only playing with children in their own class;
- We will have increased cleaning throughout the school day, and will continue to focus on the importance of hand hygiene;
- The school day will start at 8:45 am and end at 3:30 pm. We will be providing a 'before school club' starting at 8am for those parents who need it, and each year group will have its own entry and exit point. Please refer to the parent guidance document for more details on all of these points;



- Parents will be expected to queue outside the entry point for their child's class, observing social distancing rules. For safety reasons, parents will not be permitted to enter the school building under any circumstances. If you wish to meet with a member of staff, this must be agreed by a member of the senior leadership team in advance.

***Attached to this newsletter is more detailed guidance for parents on how we need to work together following the rigorous risk assessments that we are carrying out.***

### **Provision for Key Workers and Vulnerable Children**

During this time, we will continue to provide provision for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers for children in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. The arrangements for this provision remain the same, except that from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, the entry and exit point will be through the dining hall door behind the front car park.

### **To conclude**

Once we have safely completed the safe return of the first two phases of children, we will undertake further risk assessments and confirm whether we can then begin to invite children back from other year groups as well. How this is undertaken will again be informed by the government's guidance however, I strongly suspect that that will take place in phases too, probably with Years 2 and 5 first and then Years 3 and 4.

I want to reassure you that it is your decision to send your child to school, and should you not decide to send your child to school, then no penalties will be issued for non-attendance. Our planning to date suggests that we currently have the capacity to continue to deliver home learning for those children not attending school.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone in this group, they should not come back to school at this time and they should continue with home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical guidance to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance.

We will continue to update you with information as we receive further updates from the government, and as our plans to reopen continue to develop.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions that you have,

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Abrahams  
Headteacher

