

ST LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 22nd June 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We hope everyone is safe and well during these very strange and unusual times where Government guidance seems to change on an almost daily basis, which can become very confusing for us all to understand what we can and cannot do. Please be assured that the safety of our children, families and staff is always our first priority and will always come first with every decision that we make as a school.

As shared with you all in my updates over the last couple of weeks, the Government have now accepted that it is not possible for the majority of schools to bring back the remaining year groups full-time before September due to schools not having enough classrooms and staff available to accommodate the number of bubbles required if all children returned full-time. As I explained previously, if all parents wished for their children to return, we would require over 40 classrooms.

Last week, the Government announced that schools can begin to welcome more children back if they have the capacity to do so in terms of both staff and space. In order to facilitate this, the updated guidance from the Government and Local Authority states that 'this means those parents of children in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception, who did not take up the offer of a place, or did not respond will not subsequently be able to take up a place this term'.

Following this announcement, Year 2 parents/carers were contacted regarding sending their children back to school and I am pleased to say that from this morning, we have welcomed some Year 2 children back to school.

For those parents of children in Years 3, 4 and 5, we understand that this may be disappointing news for those of you who would like your child to return to school as soon as possible. It is frustrating for us too as inevitably, we cannot physically accommodate all children full-time. Therefore, our next step is to look at how we can welcome those children in Years 3, 4 and 5 whose parents would like them to return to school in some format, before the Summer holidays.

In order for us to work out what might be feasible, in terms of what we can offer for these children, can parents who are interested please contact school by Wednesday 24th June @ 12:00 midday. This can either be via the school email or by telephoning school to register your interest.

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Please note that depending on numbers of children wanting to return, staff availability (as many of the staff are already involved in the 'bubbles' for children already in school) and spaces available, we cannot guarantee what this provision will look like (as in terms of days/times) or which staff your child will be with. All I ask is that parents please continue to bear with us as this is not a simple process and our main priority is always to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Parents who choose to keep their children at home or do not respond by Wednesday's deadline, will not have a place allocated for their child in a bubble this term. However, we will continue to provide Home Learning on the school website.

As for September, I am sure that lots of you are also wondering what will be happening! Please be assured that we too are very keen to find out this information and will update you all as soon as possible. On Friday 19th June, the Government announced £1 billion investment to support schools over the next two years which will help children catch up with what they have missed while schools have been closed. We look forward to seeing how this develops as we plan how we can support all of our children.

As I said in last week's newsletter, I truly wish that everything could just return to normal - our school is just not the same without all of you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and please remember that we all want you all to know that we are here for you every step of the way, we will help you in any way that we can - just contact school either by telephone 01902 556434 or preferably by email: stlukesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Please try to keep up-to-date with what is happening as things are constantly changing; please ensure that you read the text messages from school as these usually have links to important letters. All documents are also uploaded onto the school website so please check there too!

God bless, take care and stay safe!

AGRE .

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Grennan Headteacher MDanie

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