

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School

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## All Parents and Carers

Friday 03 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds you well, and that you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday with your family. It goes without saying that we are really looking forward to seeing the children return.

You will no doubt be aware that government guidelines and restrictions have eased considerably recently, including in school. We are very pleased to be able to start bringing back some aspects of school life that we have all missed, such as Collective Worship together, but we will also be proceeding with caution to ensure that everyone's safety remains a priority.

We are also very much hoping that there is significantly less disruption to the children's learning this year. From the 16 August, all children under 18 and adults who are fully vaccinated do not have to isolate if they are identified as a close contact of somebody who has tested positive for Covid-19. This means that if there is a positive case in your child's year group, the rest of the children no longer have to self-isolate for 10 days. However, government guidance does state that anyone who is identified as a close contact should then get a PCR test to ensure that they do not have the virus, therefore reducing the risk of transmission and an outbreak of the virus.

Some of the headline changes about the daily operation of the school are as follows:

- All children will begin school with a 'soft start' as they did last year, between 8:45 and 9am. Please note that all children are expected to be in class by 9am. All children will now finish at 3:30pm again, with the exception of Early Years, who have a 'soft exit' between 3:15 and 3:30pm.
- We will continue to have different entry and exit points for different year groups so as to avoid congestion. All of this is detailed in the table below.
- We will have a staggered return to Collective Worship in the hall, with children gathering in phases initially, to avoid too much crowding.
- Class Assemblies will resume on Thursday afternoons the October half term.
- Children will continue to have their playtimes and lunchtimes with their own year group, or with one other in some cases. We have found that children enjoy having more space and equipment to use during their break times, and so will have this system in place once again.
- We are planning for children to be able to resume school trips on public transport after half term.
- Children will be able to use their cloakrooms in class once again, but they should continue to wear their PE kit all day on the days they have PE.
- Please continue to provide your child with a labelled water bottle.

Please be assured that we will continue to have strict hygiene measures in school, such as handwashing and additional cleaners on site during the day. Furthermore, rooms across the school will continue to be well ventilated.

Please note that if a child presents with Covid symptoms, we will still contact you and ask for them to be tested. This also still applies to our staff, who would need to isolate and get a PCR test if they have any symptoms.

Please see the table below for details of children’s entry and exit points:

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Finish time</b>	<b>Drop-off and pick-up point</b>
Nursery	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	Soft exit: 3:15-3:30	Children handed over to staff at Nursery gate.
Reception	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	Soft exit: 3:15-3:30	Children handed over to staff at Reception gate on Glenworth Avenue.
Year 1	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	3:30 collection from classrooms	Children dropped off at classroom door, and handed over to classroom staff.  Enter through the main gate on Glenworth Avenue, walk past the swimming pool directly to the Year 1 classrooms.
Year 2	Soft start: 8:45 and 9:00	3:30 collection from front playground	Children dropped off by parents on the front playground.  Children enter through the main gate on Saunders Ness Road, across the front playground and in the side entrance.
Year 3	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	3:30 collection from main entrance	Main office door entrance.
Year 4	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	3:30 collection from football pitch	Children to enter through the main gate on Glenworth Avenue, across the football pitch, and up the new building staircase to the classroom.  Parents to collect children from the football pitch.
Year 5	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	3:30 collection from front playground	Children dropped off by parents on the front playground.  Children enter through the main gate on Saunders Ness Road, across the front playground and in the side entrance.

Year 6	Soft start: 8:45-9:00	3:30 collection from football pitch	Children to enter through the main gate on Glenworth Avenue, across the football pitch, and up the old building staircase to the classroom.  Parents to collect children from the football pitch.
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By 'soft start', we mean that children can be dropped off between the times listed, with the expectation that they will be in class by the later time. For children in Years 2 to 6, we ask that parents drop their child off at the designated point listed above, and not to linger around these points, to ease congestion. Children will then be supervised by members of staff as they make their way up to class, where a member of staff will be waiting for them.

We continue to politely request that parents continue to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting their children, or if they enter the school building.

We will of course continually review our processes in school, to ensure that they facilitate both the best capacity for children's learning and enjoyment, as well as ensuring everyone is kept as safe as possible.

A revised Covid risk assessment and outbreak management plan will be available for you to view on our website before the children return to school. To access this, please go to our website, and scroll down the home page to the section on Covid-19.

Finally, within the next week or so you will receive a parent calendar with details of all of our main events this coming year, which we hope will be able to run to schedule this year.

Once again, we are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday.

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School