



St Luke's News

A Christian school that serves a diverse community and works in partnership with parents to develop the whole child.



4th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school feels it is now as ready as it can be to start welcoming back children from the year groups that the government has prioritised.

I have put a 21 page Risk Assessment document that summarises the issues we have faced and what we are doing to reduce those risks to a manageable and safe level – please look for it on the website under the Parents' Page on top menu bar and also in this newsletter I have attempted to answer some of the most common questions you might have as parents.

We are living through such strange times and I totally understand the concerns of both yourselves as parents and those of our staff but I suppose the one thing we must try and hold on to is that although we might work and live a little differently, when things settle down there is also lots of things we need to get back to doing to support not only our children but each other. We will triumph in this task because we are an amazing, resilient and tough learning community and there is nothing we can't overcome together.

New Beginnings

Some of the classrooms and areas around school have changed since you were last in. As you can see from the photos, we have been working hard getting areas of the school ready for **The Return!**

The Reception classroom carpet was removed (right) and a lino floor put down in its place. This makes for much easier and safer cleaning.



Other classrooms have been emptied but for a few desks where 'bubbles' of pupils will work.

Soft furnishing and bookcases have been cleared out or covered in the hallway in front of Yrs 1&2 classrooms leaving it rather sad and forlorn



Reception playground covered and locked down!



Cleared and covered hallways

RETURNING TO ST. LUKE'S: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We all want children to return to school but this needs to be in a safe and steady manner. Parents and carers, quite understandably, would like additional information before finally deciding on whether to allow their child to return to school. Hopefully, the information below will help you decide on the right course of action for you and your child.

We would like to emphasise that even though our plans and risk assessment are based on what we consider to be the safest option, they are not fool proof and cannot guarantee 100% safety. Every family must independently come to a decision which they feel is right for them. There is no right or wrong choice!

Which children will be returning and when?

- Children will return in a staggered way.
 - Year 6 will be able to return from Monday 8th June
 - Reception will be able to return from Wednesday 10th June
 - Y1 will be able to return from Monday 15th June
 - YN will be able to return at a future date when we are sure we are keeping everyone safe
- **Priority children (key workers and vulnerable) can continue to attend.**

Are there changes to the length of day?

- Start and end times will also change, as we need to stagger these to avoid too many people being clustered together at the start and end of each day. You will be informed of time for your child via text.

Does my child have to attend?

- No! Every family's situation is different and therefore you need to make an informed choice that is right for you and your child.

Will I be fined?

- No. It is not a legal requirement at the moment for children to attend school.

If they stay home how will you support their education?

- We are continuing to develop our online offer and therefore children will still be able to access daily lessons via the website or Google classroom. This will follow the content being covered in school.

Can I change my mind later?

- If you commit to your child attending school, they should do so regularly. It is not helpful for their education or well-being to keep swapping. It can also affect the well being of other children in the bubble as there will be less children for them to socialise with as they cannot socialise with children from other bubbles.
- **If you choose for your child not to come into school to start off with and then change your mind later, you will need to contact me at ht@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk**

What time does my child need to be at school?

- You will be informed via text as we have to stagger entry and exit for safety reasons
- YN, YR & Y1 will enter from the front gate and Keyworker children in Y2-6 and Y6 will enter via the back gate.
- Once you have dropped your child at school gate please do not wait to speak to other parents as we will have other groups coming to line up.
- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**

Does my child have to wear uniform?

Children should wear tracksuit bottoms and trainers with a white tee shirt and school sweatshirt if needed – in case we do PE they do not have to get changed

What about other items?

- Children may bring an individual water bottle with them.
- If it is cold, they can bring a coat or if it is hot, they can bring in a hat.
- **No bags, book bags, pencil cases, reading books or other items can be brought in or go home with children.**

What about PPE?

- You may wish your child to wear PPE whilst travelling but they must not wear it when they come into school.
- This is because a child is unlikely to wear a face mask for the entire day (particularly when running around outside) and therefore will want to take it off. Putting it down, picking it up or misplacing it poses a bigger risk than not wearing one.
- Staff will generally not be wearing PPE which is why the social distance areas are in place in all rooms (including staff areas).
- Staff will wear PPE if there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids i.e. first aid, or if they are involved with helping younger children use toilet facilities. They will also wear it if they are looking after someone who displays possible COVID symptoms.
- In these cases, the PPE will be disposable gloves & all in one bodysuits. They may also be wearing a clear visor.

My child has SEND & or medical needs, what should I do?

- If your child is in one of the returning year groups, we will work with you to create a risk assessment in relation to their needs.
- This will then be used to decide whether school or home-based education is more suitable at this time.

How many will be in a class?

- Returning children will be placed into groups of between 7-10. They will use the same room, with the same children and same allocated adult each day – this is their 'bubble'.

Will they be in their normal room and with their class teacher?

- With classes being split into so many groups it is unlikely it will be their usual class teacher. We also have some staff who continue to be in vulnerable groups and so cannot be on site.
- We need at least 2 classrooms for each year group so it is likely your child will be in a different room.

Will children be allowed to choose their own bubble?

- No.

Can my child mix with friends or relatives who may be in another bubble?

- Unfortunately, no. Each bubble needs to stay within itself both in the classroom and outside in the playground.
- Each bubble will be given allocated space and times to be in the playground every day, but they will not be able to play with children from other bubbles who may be in a different area.

What about social distancing in the classroom (Year 6, Year 1 and priority children)?

- Each classroom has 7-10 tables separated as far as possible.
- Each child will be allocated a table to themselves.
- After washing their hands & sanitising, children will need to sit at the allocated table.
- Children will need to stay at their tables unless they are going outside to play.
- We will try to utilise outside space as much as possible too.

What about social distancing in the playground (Year 6, Year 1 and Keyworker children)?

- Children will be allocated a large enough space for their bubble to play in. This will be a shared space for every child in the bubble.
- Children will be encouraged to socially distance from each other and understand the space needed by putting their arms outstretched to the sides. Their fingertips should then not touch the fingertips of the child near them who is doing the same thing.
- Play equipment for each bubble will be supplied and children will be encouraged to play games that require distance between them.
- Children will not be able to play contact games with each other.

What about social distancing in Early Years?

- EY classrooms have had a lot of resources and furniture removed, the flooring has been changed from carpet to lino and there has been extensive cleaning inside and outside.
- However, children this young will find it extremely difficult to social distance, even with reminders.
- Therefore, in accordance with government guidance, children will be allowed to be in contact with each other but only within their bubble. We will endeavour to restrict the number of children engaged in any activity where possible.
- Every Reception space will also have permanent access to an outdoor space for the use of their bubble.
- We will of course make use of this for as many activities as possible, in addition to break and lunch play.

What will the curriculum be?

- The curriculum in school will follow the same planning as that being issued to be completed at home.
- In years 6 & 1 this will be predominantly English and Maths in the morning and project work in the afternoon.
- In Reception we will endeavour to cover as many areas of learning as possible within the restrictions we have.

How will you look after my child's mental health?

- This has been a challenging time for everyone and that includes children.
- Many of our families have experienced illness, change in family circumstances and bereavement.
- We realise that many children may be scared to be outside with others, whilst others will be looking forward to it but find the restrictions they must follow difficult.
- All staff on site have received training this week in relation to supporting children's mental health and how to support those who have experienced bereavement.

What happens for lunch?

- Lunch will be as normal

What about toilets?

- Toilets will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.

What is happening about cleaning?

- An amended hygiene plan has been put into place for this time with extra cleaning in the morning and at lunchtime as well as after school.
- High contact areas (such as door handles) will be cleaned a minimum of 3 times a day.
- School cleaners will clean every area each night.
- We have sourced additional cleaning materials and are engaging an additional agency cleaner for this period.
- In Reception, only resources that can be disinfected will be used and this will be done on a frequent basis.
- Resources will not be shared across bubbles unless they have been disinfected.

How are you promoting good hygiene?

- Everyone entering the site must wash or sanitise their hand for 20 seconds.
- We will be reinforcing this with children as they return through lessons on hygiene from the DFE.
- Hands must be washed/sanitised frequently throughout the day including before and after using the toilet, before eating and when returning from the playground.
- Every bubble has hand sanitisers and anti-bacterial spray and disposable cloths so children can wipe their table before and after eating, tissues and a lidded bin for these items to be placed in, when not in use.
- We will also reinforce the importance of using tissues if sneezing – “catch it, bin it, kill it” – we have bought specific bins for this.
- Rooms must always be well ventilated, so windows and doors will be left open wherever possible.

What if my child needs first aid?

- A qualified first aider will be on duty.
- Temperatures will be taken using an infra-red thermometer. If your child has a temperature, we will contact you to collect them immediately (see below).
- If it is a minor injury (such as a graze) you will be informed in the usual manner, that your child needed to receive first aid.

What if someone shows COVID symptoms during the day?

- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**
- If someone feels unwell during the day with any of the symptoms of COVID they will be taken to a first aid isolation room and a member of staff (wearing full PPE) will check them and if necessary we will then contact

the named family member to come and collect them immediately (or an ambulance in a more severe situation). A staff member will stay with them just outside the door which has a glass panel.

- Their temperature will be taken with an infrared thermometer.
- **Therefore, if you choose for your child to come to school you MUST provide a contact number that will always be answered.**
- Everyone in the bubble the person is linked to will be contacted. The bubble will then not attend school until the person showing symptoms has been tested (which we can help arrange) and the household should isolate until the results are received.
- If the test comes back negative, we will contact you and the bubble can come back into school the next day.
- If the test comes back positive, we will contact you and can help arrange testing for your household.

What if I need to speak to the school? Can I come into the front office?

- Unfortunately, no. For this period if you need to speak to someone you need to call or email us.
 - Tel: 0207 476 3559
 - Email: info@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk – or ht@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk
- No parents or visitors will be allowed on site unless in the case of an emergency such as a fire.

Is there any breakfast club or after school clubs?

- No. We have no space in which to run these and to keep bubbles of pupils separate.

Public Health England Trial (Virus Tests)

Newham is one of 10 boroughs selected to carry out a trial into the extent that children might be asymptomatic – in other words carrying traces of Co-Vid 19 - but not affected by it and whether the same happens for staff working with them. As part of this trial they want to swab and pinprick (blood test) the keyworker children and staff and give you results back within a few weeks – I will send more details out to those people who may be involved on Monday.

Youth Empowerment Service

Be part of the Young Newham Story – If you are under 25 share a piece of creative work that best capture the spirit and consequences of life under lockdown.

Send digital artwork or a photograph of the work to
NewhamCYP.Commissioner@newham.gov.uk

More info: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/news/article/388/covid-19-snapshot-call-out-to-all-children-and-young-people-in-newham>

Deadline for submissions: **30th June 2020**

And finally... See below a flyer for a free course for parents. I wish you all the best and send prayers to all our families – remember if there is anything you think I should know or anything you think I could help with please do not hesitate to contact me at: ht@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk

Matt Hipperson
Head Teacher



EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES



Being a Parent Course

A free course for parents of children aged 9 to 16 years

Delivered digitally via a video call app called Zoom.

Delivered for Parents by Parents

The course helps parents learn practical communication skills for everyday life & bring up confident, happy and co-operative children. You will leave this course feeling better able to:

- Help others by sharing your experience as a parent
- Learn new ways to communicate with your children, celebrate successes and solve problems together
- Create a calm and peaceful family life

*Comfort breaks
will be built in
to the course*

Course Details:

Course Start Date: Thursday 18th June 2020

Course End Date: Thursday 13th August 2020

Course Time: 2:00–4:00pm

Duration of Course: 9 consecutive weeks

To sign up for the course, please follow the link below:

<https://www.headstartnewham.co.uk/get-involved/>

For more information and support, please follow us Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
@HeadStartNewham

You can still contact us Monday–Friday from 9am–5pm on the following details:

T: 0203 373 9983 E: headstart.programmeteam@newham.gov.uk





Being a Parent Group

(for parents/carers with a 9 -16 year old)

Each week the group looks at different topics related to your relationship with your child/ren including:

Being a Parent

The good enough parent
Taking care of ourselves

Parenting skills and Listening skills

Communication and listening

Feelings

Expressing and acknowledging feelings

Valuing your child

Using descriptive praise to change behaviour

Understanding conflict, negotiation and problem ownership

Negotiation skills
Choices, consequences and sanctions

Quality Time

Building your child's self esteem
What is it like to be a young person in Newham

Understanding children's behaviour

Exploring needs of your child and their behaviour
Discipline and household rules
Family meetings

Stress management, Review and Ending

Coping with stress
Reviewing your learning and celebration

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