



Hanley St Luke's C of E Aided Primary School

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today about our plans for the wider reopening of school to some eligible year groups. I have already shared our plans for possible wider reopening via Dojo and via our school Facebook page before the half term. Parents were alerted to this via text and the majority of parents in the eligible year groups have let us know whether they will be sending their child/ children (once we confirm we can begin to welcome more pupils). Thank you for your cooperation.

In our plans for possible wider opening of school, we have always said this will only be when, firstly, the government confirms that it is safe to do so and secondly, that school feels it has prepared as well as it can and has safe staffing levels. We have not been helped in this process by constantly changing guidance from the government, not least, the very late guidance for Early Years, which was not released until Sunday 24th May. Our plan is a 'live' document and will continue to evolve to ensure it is keeping everyone as safe as possible, taking on board the latest guidance and school circumstances.

Like you, we expect to hear from the government on Thursday 28th May, whether their 5 tests for safe opening have been met. If they have, and they indicate schools may begin to open to more pupils, we need to be sure we are ready and **there is certainly no directive to open if we are not**. You will know some schools have declared they will not be opening for their own reasons- all school contexts are different. I must tell you that as I write this today, we have some remaining obstacles to overcome before we can welcome further pupils, as follows:

1. Several members of staff have not yet been able to finalise their own childcare arrangements despite their best efforts, as some childcare settings have yet to confirm their arrangements or are not offering full time. We are awaiting confirmation from the Local Authority about alternative solutions that may be available, to support school staff in the City.
2. We are still awaiting delivery of eye protectors for use during certain first aid/care situations, in line with government guidance on use of PPE in schools. Our first order was sub-standard when it arrived, so we have sourced further supplies, which we expect to arrive on Wednesday 27th May. We cannot open without these crucial items to protect our staff.
3. All staff need to feel confident in our plans and have time to familiarise themselves with the new layout of the school and the new routines. Only then will we be able to welcome more eligible children to school in the safest way possible. This training is planned for Monday 1st June. **SCHOOL WILL NOT BE OPEN ON THIS DAY (with the exception of key worker pupils if absolutely essential).**

If all of the above can be resolved/go ahead as planned, then on Tuesday 2nd June, we would be able to welcome the children from Nursery and Reception **whose parents have already indicated they wish to take up their place**. You would need to contact us no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday 1st June if you change your mind. We will see if we can accommodate your child safely as more pupils will affect our planned groupings. **If you just turn up on the day, we will not be able to accept your child.**

If all goes to plan, we would then open to the **Year 1 children on our list on Wednesday 3rd June** and will text on June 2nd to confirm this.

If all goes to plan, we would then open to **Year 6 children on our list on Thursday 4th June** and will text on June 3rd to confirm this.

We need at least 24 hours' notice if you wish your child to attend and have not already let us know. We may have to cap numbers, so a place is not simply guaranteed. Priority will always be given to keyworkers and our vulnerable pupils.

We will do everything possible to activate and maintain our plans for increased provision. However, if for safety reasons, such as insufficient staff, we had to collapse provision to a year group or group of pupils, then we will endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible. However, a little like a 'snow day' or a 'broken boiler day', we may have little notice but would then send a text as early as possible to those affected. We would hope to avoid that scenario, but you need to know it is a possibility- there is very clear guidance on the number of pupils in any one group to minimise the risks. We need to abide by this guidance to keep everyone safe.

Further Details and How Parents Can Help:

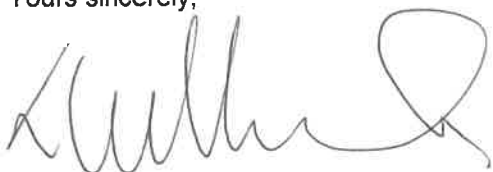
You will be aware from our published plans that there are new arrangements for dropping off and picking up as parents are not allowed on site and we need to stagger arrivals/ departures. I will write to you again with specific instructions for just your year group, before the day your child is due to attend, to remind you of these.

However, the information below applies to all parents and must be understood and adhered to:

- Anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, must not attend school/nursery. That includes children or parents/ carers as well as staff.
- Parents and carers must physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Parents and carers must adhere to the correct drop off times and entrances/exits and not enter the site.
- Children must not bring toys or other items from home to the school/nursery, unless this is essential to their health.
- Packed lunches must be in fully disposable wrapping e.g. plastic bag- no sandwiches boxes or water bottles.
- Uniform must be clean on daily. If you have run out of uniform then sensible own clothes will be allowed suitable for outdoor learning and play.
- Parents and carers must understand that we will need to keep your children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible. This may not be a teacher your child knows. We need to minimise contact with other groups around the school/nursery where possible.
- Children and staff need to clean our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Parents need to support school staff by ensuring your children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. School/ nursery will ensure a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school/ nursery.
- Be aware we need to implement an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment. We will need to restrict resources that pupils may use as a result.

I appreciate that is a lot of information to take in, but I want to be as open as possible with our parents as we prepare for wider school opening, which of course, is what we all want. I will be in touch again over the next few days with more specific details for year groups.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Williamson
Headteacher