

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey about your views of St Luke's. The responses are, as always, incredibly useful. It is something that we will continue to do as we value your feedback. We are pleased that so many parents found lots of really good comments to make which the staff and governors appreciate. At school, we always welcome any positive suggestions; please do not feel you have to wait for a questionnaire or a parents' evening to speak to us. We were pleased to see that so many of you felt that St Luke's is a 'nurturing school' which is 'friendly, warm and welcoming' and that everyone is 'approachable'. A significant number of parents also commented on:

- how much their children enjoyed coming to school;
- our professional and supportive staff who are there for the well-being of all of children;
- our open-door policy;
- the links with St Luke's Church;
- our family environment;
- the upkeep and maintenance of the physical environment;
- the communication with parents;
- the holistic approach to our teaching, including a focus on Christian Values;
- our curriculum, including our new approach to homework;
- the progress made by the children;
- our worships;
- the varying clubs on offer;
- the new homework format.

We understand that you may have questions about some areas of school life and we feel it is important to address these:

Before and After School Club Places:

We are currently reviewing our Before and After School Club terms and conditions. We always advise new parents to apply for a place prior to starting as, for health and safety reasons, we have a limited number of places.

Library Book Choices:

Children are given an opportunity to choose a library book independently based on their own interests. These are the children's own choice and are read for pleasure, therefore may not always reflect their reading ability. Children can change this book on a weekly basis. However, we would be more than happy to change any library book sooner if you are unhappy with your child's choice of book – please contact your child's teacher.

Seesaw App Usage:

We are delighted that you like the Seesaw app. We only use this in Reception as it is extremely expensive and staff do try to provide pictures and comments using both Dojo and the school website.

Lunchtime Activities:

We already offer an abundance of lunchtime activities. The school provides clubs run by Wigan Athletic and Premier Sports every day. Throughout the year we also run Library, Scrabble, Lego and Reading clubs. The Y5/6 Playleaders also run activities. Welfare staff are trained to run lunchtime activities which includes the use of the interactive Anomaly Board. The children have the choice to take part in these varied activities.

Traffic:

The huge amount of traffic on Church Lane is equally as frustrating for staff. Apart from raising awareness of parking around the school area, there is unfortunately very little we can do about the traffic outside school. We do ensure that there is a crossing patrol and a member of the senior leadership team at the front of

school in the morning. If you have concerns regarding the level of traffic and road safety, we recommend you contact Wigan Council directly.

School Bags:

For health and safety reasons, we are unable to store large school bags due to limited storage space.

Term Dates:

All dates for the term are on both the newsletter and school website. These are provided to parents at the start of each term. However, some events can be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. The text facility enables us to reach out to parents quickly in order for us to pass on key information. Sometimes events are organised at short notice by third parties. As these are often events that will enhance the curriculum, we try to attend so that the children do not miss out. If you are not receiving the texts, please contact the school office.

Homework Support:

If you require any further clarity or support with your child's homework, please contact the class teacher who will be happy to speak to you. Information about homework is also available on the school website.

New Homework Format:

The vast majority of feedback from both parents and pupils has been very positive regarding the new homework format. It allows pupils to explore the wider curriculum and is inclusive of all children's learning styles. We will continue to review and develop how we structure it.

School Trips/Visits:

Each class attends one trip or has a visitor to enhance the curriculum at least once a term. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints of the school, we are unable to offer more educational visits. We do try to subsidise and fundraise to provide more opportunities throughout the year.

Class Assemblies:

Our class assemblies are very popular and very well attended. However, we are currently reviewing the possibility of varying the start times to try to accommodate our families even further.

Snack:

Unfortunately, widening the variety of food at snack time would incur a huge cost. Therefore, we are unable to provide any more choice than we currently offer.

Outdoor PE Kit:

Pupils are allowed to wear a tracksuit for outdoor PE during the winter months. We have contacted our uniform suppliers to provide a cost for an official St Luke's tracksuit, should parents wish to purchase one.

Cost of Extra Curricular Activities:

We do have a number of clubs that are free of charge. However, we do require external providers in order to be able to provide a wider range of clubs, therefore a cost is necessary.

Assessment:

End of Key Stage tests and Phonics Screening tests are statutory. We have a legal duty to carry these out. Practise tests help to prepare the children for these. At St Luke's, we firmly believe in providing a practical, wide ranging curriculum, therefore we do keep our testing to a minimum.

School Field:

Over the last two years we have been generously supported financially by the Diocese with funds for the school building environment. This has been spent on alleviating and solving drainage issues. Although this project has not been completed, we are already seeing improvements. This includes the use of the school field throughout the year. I am pleased to announce that the use of the field has increased significantly. However, there are still issues with the drainage that we hope to resolve so that the field can be used even more frequently.

Fundraising:

As a Church School, we feel it is important for our children to understand the value of helping others. Fundraising for both school and the wider world is an integral part of this – we feel it encompasses all of our school Christian Values.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hardaker
Headteacher

