

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Junior Parents and Carers,

Junior Carol Service 2021

It is that time of year again when we start making preparations for our Christmas celebrations. This year the Junior children will perform their Carol Service in St Luke's Parish Church on Tuesday 14th December 2021. When we were unable to hold live events last Christmas I never envisaged not being able to do so this year and had looked forward to being able to welcome you to our Christmas celebrations, but sadly we will be unable to hold the Carol Service as a live event in a Covid-19 safe way. This is a great disappointment to us all, therefore we have paid for the concert to be professionally filmed so that you can share the occasion with us virtually.

This decision has not been made lightly and is based on the advice of our Local Authority's public health team and Greater Manchester Health:

- As of 22 November 2021 Professor Kate Arden, Wigan Council's Director of Public Health, informed us that *'The current 7 day prevalence rate in the borough is 366.8 cases per 100,000, which is the second highest rate in Greater Manchester.'* Greater Manchester Health has informed us that *'Rates of Covid-19 across Greater Manchester remain high and rates amongst children and young people between 0-16 are the highest than any other age group.'*
- Greater Manchester Health advises that we should only hold live events if we can have *'repeated sittings/performances to reduce the total number of people present at any one time'*. We have looked at many options that would allow us to do this, but with 127 children in our junior department we would have to hold eight performances to be able to achieve the infection control measures required to safely hold the event and this isn't feasible for the staff, children and St Luke's Parish Church.

Whilst it is disappointing that we cannot hold the Carol Service as a live event we value your support and understanding of the reasons behind this decision.

We will distribute a link to the recording after the event. The recording will be accessible via an unlisted YouTube link and we require your permission for your child to be included or excluded in the filming – please follow this link to provide this <https://forms.office.com/r/6n8WPgAzNW>. If you do not want your child to be filmed we will make arrangements for them to be involved without being in view of the camera. We kindly ask that you do not distribute the link to any other person or re-publish the recording in any way.

I really hope that we are able to welcome you to our performances next year to make precious memories, but I hope that in the mean time you can enjoy our virtual Carol Service.

Yours sincerely,

S Hardaker

Mr S Hardaker
Headteacher

