ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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19 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance – Academic Year 2021 – 2022

I would like to congratulate all our children and families for your incredible efforts to follow Covid-19 guidelines, whilst also ensuring that the children maintain excellent attendance. Your efforts have minimised infection rates in school and ensured that we have been able to keep St Luke's open: thank you.

We follow Wigan Council's Attendance Team guidance on recording absence, which is informed by the DfE:

- Up to 6 December 2021 we were required to record all children that were absent for Covid-19 related absence, whether they be positive or have a requirement to self-isolate, as 'attendance not required - X'.
- From 7 December 2021 we were required to record all children testing positive with Covid-19 as 'ill I'. Children that tested negative but were classed as close contacts and required to self-isolate were recorded as 'attendance not required - X'.
- From 4 April 2022 we were required to record all children that were absent for Covid-19 related reasons, whether they be positive or have a requirement to self-isolate, as 'ill - I'.

These changing guidelines have affected the attendance record of the children with Covid-19 related absence in different ways, depending on when the absence ocurred. As was the case last academic year, as so many children's attendance has been influenced by Covid-19 and circumstances beyond their control, this academic year we will be celebrating the attendance and efforts of all our children. We feel that this is even more important given the changes in recording Covid-19 related absence that I have detailed above and the effect this has had on the childrens' attendance records.

Once more I would like to congratulate all our children and families for your dedication to St Luke's and hope that the next academic year sees an end to the disruption and uncertainty caused by Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

S Hardaker

Mr S Hardaker Headteacher

