

St Matthew's Primary School
Wenlock Street
Luton
LU2 0NJ



10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Please read this letter **carefully** as this will include key information for preparing your child to successfully return to school in September.

The government has instructed that all schools in England will open from **3rd September 2020** for **all** children. We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back. Our phased return of year groups this term has been successful and we want to reassure you that we will remain vigilant in our health and safety measures in September. I appreciate that school will look and feel a little bit different when your child returns or starts school in the Autumn Term which is why I am writing to you to explain some of our plans.

Arrival

Children's arrival times will be staggered to minimise overcrowding and queuing. Your specific timings will be sent to you next week. Gates will be allocated to each class for entry and pick up. The Government have instructed that **Parents will not be allowed on site** and you must observe social distancing when collecting and dropping off your child at your allocated gate. Please be respectful that footpaths will be extremely busy, so we would appreciate parents being thoughtful and respectful of where they park. In September we are numbering our gates to avoid any confusion of where to go. Again, your child's gate number will be shared with you next week. A staff member will greet you at the gate however we are not going to continue checking children's temperatures upon arrival. I am sure you are keen to see your child's new class and their teacher, but for our continued safety this is a measure that needs to remain until we are reassured further by the government.

Classroom organisation

Your child will be working in a class bubble. This means the children in your child's class bubble will not be mixing or socialising with other class bubbles. Our playgrounds will be redesigned to allow for safe bubble **zones**, so that class bubbles can play happily without disrupting the safety of other class bubbles. Lunchtimes and play times across the school have been timetabled to allow each bubble class a safe experience outside. Usual gatherings such as assemblies will be in class. PE lessons will be happening and your child must bring a PE kit on the first day, these will stay in school until half term.

The classrooms for Y2 - Y6 will have forward facing seating available for children and they will be provided with brand new work books and their own stationery pack. Please ensure that your child brings their own water bottle containing **water** on their first day back. Resources will be routinely cleaned and we have systems in place to ensure items such as reading books will be quarantined before distribution to children. All classroom cleaning procedures have been completely enhanced and every class has all the equipment needed to maintain a clean environment. Toilets will also be cleaned routinely and checked vigorously throughout the day. The children will be required to frequently wash their hands during the school day.

Acting Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Rayner
Acting Deputy Headteachers: Mr Adam Bell & Mr Jon Parker
Wenlock Street, Luton, LU2 0NJ
Tel: 01582 723970 Fax: 01582 451961
Email: admin@stmatthews.primaryluton.co.uk

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safeguarding of children.





Lunchtime

Our lunchtime arrangements have had to be adjusted to ensure we are not mixing bubbles in our usual eating areas which are the school halls. We have been working alongside the catering service to ensure we can provide children with a hot meal, which will be served in the hall for some class bubbles, or in the classrooms for others. If your child is registered for benefits-related Free School Meals or is in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2 then they will automatically be provided with a hot meal daily. For pupils transitioning into Year 3 you will receive a letter about school lunch options next week. For KS2 parents, you will still be able to pay for school meals as usual on ScoPay or send your child in with a healthy packed lunch.

Learning

Our Curriculum is also changing slightly to ensure we do make time to reflect on children's experiences over the last few months, to ensure strong relationships are rebuilt between pupils and staff as well as our staff having time to identify any lost learning that will need re-establishing. As always our learning will be fun with us all working on the whole school theme of 'Wishes and Wonders' for the first two weeks back. Please have a look at our blogs over the summer as all the year groups have made some wonderful year group videos as part of transition, so take a look!

Before and After School Care

Unfortunately, due to the Government guidelines we are not able to offer any form of Wrap Around Care for any children, including Breakfast or After School Clubs for the foreseeable future. We are unable to mix class bubbles. As soon as we are in a position to reopen this we will inform you of our plans.

Health

We will not be taking temperatures in September.

As usual if your child falls ill with any symptoms related to COVID-19 they must not come to school and you must call the school to inform us **immediately**. This is essential so that we can keep your child's bubble protected and so that we can track cases efficiently. Similarly if your child presents with any symptoms at school you will be called to come and collect your child immediately. It is essential that you are contactable by phone and that the school office has up-to-date contact details for you. Should your child present with any symptoms you will be advised to get a test, once you have had a negative result they can return to school. We will be vigorously monitoring our school's attendance, particularly in relation to Covid-19 to ensure an escalated outbreak does not occur.

Please also remember that if someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, the whole household would need to isolate for 14 days or until they are tested. If the test is negative the rest of the household can return to school. If a positive test is received the household must continue to self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of the symptoms, following the 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'.

Uniform

Your child must return to school in **full school uniform**. Uniform can be purchased from our school on:

Monday 1st September 10.00-1.00pm only
Tuesday 2nd September 10.00-1.00pm only

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School office staff will be based out the front of school which you can access via the main school gates. Please bring the exact amount of money needed (costs can be found on our school website). We also cannot accept any exchanges or allow any children to try on items prior to purchase so please be sure of sizes you need before visiting us.

Other information

The Government has made it very clear that they expect every child to return in September. It is essential that you contact us before September if you have any specific concerns about your child's return. This can be done via the admin email or you can phone school.

I appreciate this is a lot of information to take in; but during this ever changing climate it is essential you are kept fully informed of all school decisions in a timely manner.

Next week you will receive your child's return to school details specific to their bubble class. Please be assured that we are continuing to do everything in our power to keep school a safe place for all children and staff. We will continue to be guided by the Government's latest advice and should anything change over the summer we will be in touch before school starts.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and wish you an enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Victoria Rayner
(Acting Headteacher)

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