



SKERTON
ST LUKE'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

3rd January 2021

Dear everyone,

Just to update you to the current situation in school. As you will be aware the Government have said that local schools are safe to be open for all children.

Lancashire advice from Councillor Phillipa Williamson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, is: "Since the pandemic began, schools and early years settings across Lancashire have done a remarkable job, continuing to teach young people either remotely or in person in safe, Covid-secure environments. Throughout they ensured that the children's needs come first, with special attention being given to those from the most vulnerable families and from families of key workers. "Clearly the best place for children is in school, not just for their education but for their social, mental and physical wellbeing. Having looked at the infection rates in Lancashire and following advice from our public health experts, we are not advocating a blanket closure of primary schools across Lancashire at this time. "The ultimate decision on whether to open remains with each individual school. Each of those schools knows their own circumstances best, and we will support them to help make the right decision for their pupils and staff."

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, added: "Although infection rates are on the rise in Lancashire, we are not in the same situation as London and the South East of England where the new variant has really taken hold. That means that we can and should encourage schools to stay open where they can. Clearly this is a fast-moving situation and must be kept under constant review, both locally and by government."

At this point in time we are planning for school to be open for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January. With this in mind, we will be reviewing our Risk Assessment tomorrow. We will plan to cover every aspect so that we can be sure of the safety of children and staff in school. We ask you to continue to work with us to allow us to do our jobs in the safest environment possible. If for any reason this is not possible, we will notify you about how to access home learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please continue to keep yourselves and each other safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Armistead
Headteacher