



# St. Lucia's Church of England Primary School Upton Magna

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5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Autumn Term Events and Contingency Planning

As you will appreciate, schools are still restricted in the organisation of additional school events which would usually be arranged at this time of year. We are however keen to facilitate what is possible and of course safe to do so to benefit our children at St. Lucia's.

### Harvest

Most of you will know that usually our Harvest Festival takes place in St. Lucia's Church. This year, the children will celebrate Harvest during the week of 19<sup>th</sup> October in line with the church's celebrations. Poems, prayers and artwork will be completed in each class. We will also be accessing the 'Experience Harvest' video courtesy of a local Church team along with videos which the Wrockwardine Deanery are producing to support class assemblies. Rather than collecting items of food this year, monetary donations can be made instead to help support the local Foodbanks in the town. These donations can be shared via your child's classes in a sealed envelope. If paying by cheque this will be made payable to St. Lucia's School Fund.

### Reception Welcome Assembly

We are delighted to share how well the children in our Reception class have settled into school.

A Reception class welcome assembly will be held during the same week as Harvest. This celebration will be remotely supported from the Deanery through short stories and action rhymes. Each child will also be presented with a small wooden cross which school will distribute on behalf of the church. We will share photos of the assembly on the Class 1 page of our school website for parents to view as unfortunately we are not able to arrange any large gatherings at this time.

### Parents' Appointments

During the autumn term, we hold individual appointments with parents. We feel this is an important opportunity to provide dialogue and communication between home and school. As some year groups will be moving into a new class after the half-term holiday, these meetings will also form part of useful transition. We would therefore like to invite parents to meet with their child's class teacher in person, but adhering to COVID safe measures. Priority of appointments will be made on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October for children in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts before they move to their new classes after the October half-term. A separate letter with full details of the additional arrangements required will

be shared with parents of these children by the end of this week. For parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 appointments will be arranged after the half-term holiday on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### Contingency Planning for Remote Learning

Thank you for the huge response we received from the parent questionnaires. These have been really helpful to inform us of the needs for each class and the capacity for remote learning from our families. As a school, we have used your views to carefully consider the most effective ways of how remote learning could be arranged for pupils at St. Lucia's in the event of a partial/bubble/school closure. Schools have been provided with expectations for remote learning by the Department for Education and Public Health England. Our contingency plan will aim to keep things simple for everyone through a home and school agreement in line with this national guidance. We will be making contact with families over the forthcoming weeks to test the proposed system via new class emails.

### General Updates

As the weather becomes cooler, we are trying to find a balance in school of keeping the classrooms and spaces well ventilated throughout the school day and by taking the opportunity to make use of the outdoor spaces as much as possible. In view of this, your child is welcome to wear an extra layer of clothing under their school uniform if they wish e.g. a vest, or plain white t-shirt which is not visible.

Coats and water bottles are still needed each day. Children in Class 2 may now bring their P.E. kits which they can keep in a separate bag in school. This will provide flexibility for P.E. and Sports during periods of mixed weather. Class 1 will still come to school dressed in their P.E. kits on Mondays until further notice, or if we inform you otherwise. Forest School arrangements for Class 1 and 2 will also continue until a review at half-term.

There have been many examples of parents remembering to socially distance from others when arriving/collecting their children from school. As the government guidance state, if you are not able to socially distance, then a face covering should be worn. We strongly encourage parents to wear face coverings at arrival and collection times if you feel you are not able to keep a safe distance from others. Although we have adjusted the staggered start/collection times, we recognise there is no one solution to suit all.

Thank you for your support to keep our school community safe and well.

Kind regards

Mrs S.L. Woolley Headteacher