



## Message from Ms Iwanicki



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking all the parents who have taken the time to send messages of thanks and appreciation to our staff team.

Over the last week or so we have seen a myriad of changes in education due to the new, rapidly spreading variant of COVID-19. On the 30<sup>th</sup> December our teachers were looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school as normal, but by 4<sup>th</sup> January we were informed that we would be moving to remote learning. However, our amazing staff worked hard to ensure they were all ready to go and the children's learning would not be affected.

This week we moved back into a national lockdown and with families and staff members having to self-isolate due to COVID-19 we were forced to make some very difficult decisions regarding child care places for our most vulnerable children and for parents who are critical to the coronavirus response. These are not decisions we take lightly, but we must always work within our risk assessment and only do what is safe for the children and staff. On that note, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our critical worker parents in the NHS, social care and all the other services that are keeping our loved ones safe and well during this difficult time.

On a positive note it has been amazing to see how many children have been logging into the live sessions on Google Classrooms. Seeing your smiling faces everyday is a real treat. Do remember to also upload your work so your teachers can see it and if you need any IT support with accessing the lessons or uploading work please contact us at [homelearning@stlukesschool.org.uk](mailto:homelearning@stlukesschool.org.uk)

Next week we will also be posting some collective worship videos on our school YouTube channel and links will be sent out via email.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our digital survey this week. It is incredibly useful to know what technology is available to our children and also what internet access they have. We have a small number of devices available to loan out in school, so if you need support for your child with a device or with internet access or mobile data please email the school office and we will do our best to help.

I would like to remind all our families in self-isolation that you too are playing an important role during lockdown by helping to control the spread of the virus to more vulnerable members of our community. More guidance and support can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Sadly, many of our families have now tested positive for COVID-19. Please continue to let the school know if your child is ill as we are keeping a record of which children are able to join us for the live lessons and we can mark them down as such if this is the case. If your family is self-isolating due to COVID-19 more information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

We find ourselves again in uncertain times and many of us will be feeling anxious and overwhelmed, but I would like to share with you a bible verse from Hebrews that I shared with staff in this morning's meeting: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* (Hebrews 13:8) It is reassuring to know that in this rapidly changing and uncertain world His never changing grace and wisdom gives stability to the soul and rest to the heart.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy few weeks,

Jo Iwanicki

Head of School

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.' **Hebrews 13:8**