



# St Leonard's C.E. Primary School

*"Nurturing Faith and Inspiring Success"*

Southwark Diocesan  
Board of Education  
Multi-Academy Trust



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Headteacher: Mr Simon Jackson BAQTS (Hons) NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Akhtar BA(Hons) PGCE

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## School Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

This letter is as frustrating to write as it will be for you to read. Unfortunately, I am still not able to provide clarity about arrangements for after half term and I am aware that this does nothing to support good relationships between school and parents. For this I sincerely apologise.

It has been suggested to all schools within our multi academy trust that we not open our school to pupils until **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the earliest** so that all returning staff can meet on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June and test our health and safety procedures and routines.

You may be asking, *"Why can't this be done during the half term?"* Well – the government are due to make an announcement on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May regarding schools opening in relation to their five tests being met or not. This means that we'll no doubt be amending our procedures yet again on the following day.

Following some extremely negative reporting in the media over the past two weeks, I wish to make it clear that not one member of staff at St Leonard's has issued me with a letter from a union. Every single one of us who is physically able wishes to return to work. However, with the government updating its guidance on almost a daily basis and the fact that this guidance is deficient, impractical and woefully inadequate in so many ways, we are constantly having to change our plans.

As I write this, I'm aware that the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is apparently of the view that the opening of schools should be postponed further than 1<sup>st</sup> June. I suppose we'll all just have to watch this space!

From my perspective, two factors are completely unreasonable: It is unreasonable to expect schools to immediately respond to announcements with a ready to go plan when there are so many updates given (often in the evenings). It is also completely unreasonable to expect parents to make plans for returning to work when schools are not giving them the information which they need. I empathise with all of you – I really do.



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I'd like to thank all those parents of children in Years 1 and 6 for completing the recent survey. As expected, it would seem that the majority of you are likely to keep your children off school and I can understand this.

Having spoken with all of the other local head teachers, we are all facing various challenges as our communities and settings are different. Please be assured that we are constantly trying to find a positive resolution to the challenges we are facing.

As long as the government doesn't issue a statement about schools before next Thursday evening, I will write to you again next Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon with the final plan for the following week.

Currently, the best case scenario is that we'll be open to children in Years 1 and 6 for a limited curriculum offer from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.**

Kind regards,

Mr Simon Jackson

Head Teacher



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