

# St Matthias Church of England Primary School

Wordsworth Rd, London N16 8DD

Tel: 0207 254 1148 • Fax: 0207 275 9215 • Email: [admin@st-matthias.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-matthias.hackney.sch.uk)

Executive Principal: Sian Davies • Headteacher: Lucy Blewett



Thursday December 30th 2020

School Reopening: Tuesday 5th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had time to enjoy a good rest and time together as a family. I trust you have stayed in good health.

Like you, we have been closely following the updates from the government about schools reopening next week. The Department for Education has announced that primary schools will return as normal next week - except for those boroughs that are considered as 'hot spots'. For these areas schools will be open only for key worker and vulnerable pupils.

Hackney is **not** on the list for school closure and, along with the neighbouring boroughs of Haringey and Islington, will adopt a 'business as usual' approach from next week. It is difficult to work out why some boroughs have delayed opening and others are set to open. I have written to the Mayor of Hackney, along with other Hackney Headteachers, to get more clarity on this.

The situation may change in the next few weeks, but for now St Matthias, along with all Hackney primaries, will be open for **all** children next week.

In summary:

- We are directed to open and we are currently planning on this basis. We will work with our staff and manage the onsite risks following the same principles we have used so far
- All bubbles (nursery-year 6) will be open from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January
- Children will be expected to be in school unless they are self-isolating or their bubble has been closed
- Risk assessments will be carried out to plan for safe opening including a careful evaluation of capacity
- We will work closely within guidance provided by the Local Authority and public health
- Staff have all been asked to provide a negative covid test to ensure the safe return to work

We know that the guidance from the government can be challenging to navigate and hope that this letter provides some clarity. If circumstances change, we will of course inform you. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you all back to school next Tuesday.

We share in your concerns and will do everything we can to keep your children safe at St Matthias,

Best wishes for you and your family as we see in the New Year,

Lucy Blewett