



# SEE THE GRAPEVINE

Monday 4th January 2021 IV · I · MMXXI

I am not sure how to start – probably contravening national protocol, and social expectation, I am going to start by saying well done for sending your kids in. It is certainly not something I was taking for granted. And for what its worth, for now, its definitely the right thing to do.... For how long we'll be open, no one knows!

The year, quite unsurprisingly has begun as 2020 ended with the added dimension of a COVID mutation which is very exciting. As for whether we should be open or not.... Well your guess is as good as mine! And that's not a flippant comment. Regarding child safety, well if anyone believed children were unsafe coming to school, one would really hope the powers that be would do something! Regarding the spread from child to adult—again, from everything I've read its very very low. Perhaps the weightiest argument surrounds community spreading; on that I'm not even pretending to have a clue. All we can do is follow the guidance which comes from the DfE (cough cough) and from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, director of public health for Lancashire. He's watching local trends, and he will, like he has done in the past, advise if we need to close. His advice is scientific, and data driven. And is certainly good enough for me.

Accordingly, for what it's worth I think school is safe—of course I do, although who knows what next week will bring as infection rates fluctuate, indeed who knows what 3pm today will bring, but really, right now is all that matters to me. It is all unknown; it is all inconvenient and if we let it, it can be upsetting and stress inducing, but then again, everything to do with Covid is.

The thrust of this half term however centres around you, kids, covid. That's the centre of our work.... Followed by teaching and learning! We can furlough many things, but not, if it is safe to do so, kids in school. We are key workers. Our work is key. We cannot forget that.

Returning to convention now, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, safe new year? In addition, as I said to staff, "let's try and focus on the positives, let's try and see the positives, and if positives are thin on the ground let's create some." Happy new year everyone, and thank you for rocking up today.

Oh, and as for how long will we be open.... My guess, all being well.... 2 weeks—but that just sheer speculation.... I'll leave it to you to decide if it's pessimistic or optimistic!

Take it easy folks, deep breathes eh, and let's focus on the many many many positives,



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## Statements on primary schools reopening in Lancashire

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.

**Councillor Phillipa Williamson**  
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools



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.

**Dr Sakthi Karunanithi**  
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing



## Start 2021 as you mean to go on!

Join the facebook page.

St Georges Primary Chorley

Subscribe to twitter @stgeorgesce

Synchronise a tablet or phone to the calendar.

Read the newsletters

Monitor SCO pay

Remember, you can now order uniform from 2 authorised locations.

[Either Price and Buckland, using the link from the website; convenient for home delivery](#), or from [Jada, in Chorley, convenient for in-stance purchase, and for trying on!](#)

*You need to use your Scopay account. Are you savvy?*

## Admissions:

If you have a child who should start school in September 2021 please ensure that you have read the admissions process on the website at school, and at church... all your questions should be answered there. Alas, we wont be able to show people round this year, but our virtual tour is now on the website.



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Let's start as we mean to go on.....

- Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, cough, change in taste or smell, and in children increasingly stomach cramps, diarrhoea, vomiting) If you are your child has any of these symptoms please get a test, and await the results before your return to school
- Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in your household are awaiting test results.
- Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household has tested positive.
- Do not send your child to school if they have been contacted by test, track and trace.
- Do not send your child to school if you have been on holiday and have to self isolate as part of quarantine.
- Do not send your child to school if they have received advice that they need to resume shielding.

## SNOW/WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURES

Just for information... should the snow come a little heavier... I will predominantly keep you posted of the state of affairs via facebook, email and the school website – front page, latest news.... this will take you to the Snow Blog! We encourage you to use these as your initial ports of call should you need clarification on school opening.

We will also put a message on the answer phone – all subject to access to the computer systems which tend to go down when you need them!

I will endeavour at all times to keep the school open; this isn't just dependent on my decision, but also whether we have enough staff in school, not just to keep the kids safe, but to educate them! And teacher attendance isn't a reflection of their dedication or determination to get to work – for some people this is their default assumption. We must acknowledge that we have staff now who travel further! It was only a few years ago when I was the furthest commuter – from Wigan! Now though I've moved, Emma, and Michelle travel from the Sefton area, Nic travels from Preston, and, well Louise just doesn't drive in the snow! That said – I will do my very best to keep the school open at all times.

Should snow be heavy please let's use common sense – a very underrated ability of human beings. The yards, paths and roads will be slippery... take care, and if you judge the journey to work to be too treacherous... don't make it. Safety must at all times be paramount.

For your convenience, and in the spirit of the team work between home and school, when we do have snow difficulty remember we do keep the registers open until 10:00am... so please... keep safe.

There is a little staffing news. In essence, Nic has brought forward her maternity leave. This is the right decision. She is vulnerable. For 2 weeks Nic will be zooming in, whence Karen and Anne will take over the teaching, and pastoral care of the kids. As always governors have spent money wisely, allowing both Karen, and Anne to be in class on Monday—handing over to each and other liaising.

In news from the kitchen Allison has left us. In the medium term Leanne will continue as our head cook, supported brilliantly by Stacey. We wish them all well. Both are superb at their jobs, and have already added their own personality and love to the cooking. So much so, I've gone back onto school dinners..... Anyone joining me!? Aylif Wilkinson joins the team. It's time to come back to school dinners—they're made with love, served with pride and taste delicious.

As if we haven't got enough going on Emma has been called for Jury Service! Although Emma's absence may be up to 2 weeks, this will be covered internally