



Longford Primary Academy

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Dear Parents,

Finally, we have all received the news we were hoping for within the Governments plans to ease lockdown. We are so happy that we can welcome all of our children back into school on March 8th. Following much digestion of Government guidance and discussions with the senior leadership team and the trust I am able to confirm that the protective measures we had in place prior to lockdown will remain as they were until we are given additional guidance allowing us to ease our own measures. We have of course added to our risk assessment which is available to view on the school website, I have highlighted some of the key points below as a reminder:

Bubbles

Classes and/or year groups will continue to operate as bubbles. This enables us to identify potential close contacts should a positive case be reported to school. I wish to re-iterate that once a case is reported we have to track back a full 48 hours prior to symptoms or a positive test (whichever comes first) in order to identify potential close contacts. Please contact the school as early as possible to inform us if your child has developed symptoms or tested positive. If there is a positive case in your household or childcare bubble, please DO NOT send your child into school.

Social distancing and masks

Pupils in primary school are not required to wear masks. We do ask that parents and carers continue to wear masks when coming onto the school premises to drop or collect your child using the one way systems previously in place. We ask that you avoid coming into the school building where possible and contact the office via the telephone or email. Of course we understand that there are instances where a face to face conversation is necessary, in these instances you MUST wear a mask while in the school building unless you are exempt.

Social distancing remains the best form of 'protection' against the spread of the virus. This is the key question I am asked when speaking with Public Health England to determine who I must ask to isolate. Government guidance recognises that the curriculum in some year groups requires children to work in groups, we have arranged most classrooms to ensure children sit side by side and not face to face. It is important that parents also maintain their distance from children and parents in other households when dropping and collecting children too. The successful implementation of protective measures in school rely heavily on the adherence of our whole school community to Government guidelines. For example, if children in separate year group bubbles are mixing outside of school then our bubble system may fail. We understand that some families rely on each other for childcare, which is permitted within the childcare bubble guidance.

Enhanced cleaning and ventilation

In addition to our usual cleaning service, staff are regularly cleaning tables and wiping down touch points. In addition, we ensure children (and staff) are regularly washing and sanitising their hands. Every classroom has their own supply of products as well as lidded bins for the disposal of used cloths and tissues. We will continue to ensure good ventilation within classrooms by opening internal doors and windows. On cooler days please feel free to send your child in with additional layers if necessary, however we have found that most classrooms have remained at a comfortable temperature by only opening windows wider during breaks and lunchtimes – this is in line with recommendations and guidance.

Staggered timing and lunches

We will continue to operate staggered drop, collection, break and lunchtimes to reduce the chances of bubbles mixing when moving around the school:

Year/class	Drop	Collection	Year/class	Drop window	Collection
Nursery	8.45	11.45/2.55	3/4FM	8.40-8.45	3.05
Reception	8.50	3.00	3/4BB & 3/4SB	8.45-8.50	3.10
Year 1	8.55	3.05	Year 5	8.50-8.55	3.15
Year 2	9.00	3.10	Year 6	8.50-8.55 (KS1 gate)	3.15 (EY gate)
One way system from KS1 gate (Ascot Drive) to EY gate (Longford Road)			Pupils to walk straight into school building within drop window – if parents adhere to drop timings there will be no need to wait on the KS2 play ground before school. Please use the one way system.		

As we are asking children to bring in as few additional items into school as possible we strongly encourage children to take up the option of a school meal. All children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to this for free under the Universal Infant Free School Meal offer (UiFSM). We are now operating a system whereby parents can order either a hot or cold option for their child from home, meaning you are able to discuss the menu options with our child the day before and have more control over what your child is eating for lunch. The office will be sending a communication regarding the meal ordering system.

Uniform

Government guidance is clear that the expectation for usual school uniform policies to resume. Therefore we expect pupils to attend in full school uniform as usual. We do still have nearly half the school year left and therefore we can offer a little flexibility if you need to buy new shoes etc, but do expect children to be back in full uniform well before the Easter holiday. You will remember that we changed our uniform policy to allow children to wear their PE kit on PE days – teachers will send a reminder of PE days.

Attendance

Again Government guidance is clear that attendance is mandatory and as a school we will be expected to follow up on non-attendance, persistent absence and lateness in line with policy. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) then you must send a copy of your child's shielding letter in order for us to record absence correctly. The attendance register is a legal document and therefore we require evidence to support our marks.

Curriculum

Many of you may be worried about how much 'catching-up' your child has to do. Your children have continued to learn throughout lockdown, they have not lost 'intelligence' they have not lost their ability to learn and they have all shown amazing resilience. A few may have lost their mojo and there may be a few misconceptions but we are all in the same boat. You will have seen how dedicated our staff are to ensuring your children receive high quality learning experiences and now they will be supported for full school days by our fabulous teachers and teaching assistants! Initially we plan on ensuring your children feel comfortable back in school, we will spend time rebuilding relationships, routines and a love of learning. We have decided to celebrate world book day and world maths day in the first week back so we can fully immerse the children in practical maths and book fun, as well as the chance to dress-up! Mrs Wareham and Mrs Gittus will provide further information regarding these days.

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th March

To enable teachers to fully prepare for our return to school there will be **NO LIVE LEARNING** on these dates. Class teachers will upload links to planned sways and activities through dojo and teams as they have usually been doing to ensure that your children are able to continue to learn on these two days. Teaching staff will be in school for these days organising classrooms and learning for the following week. Key worker children and vulnerable children may attend the school as they usually would.

We are all looking forward to seeing you all once again on March 8th.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs L. Lawrence
Acting Principal