

Longlands Primary School



Information for parents about the return to school on September 2nd 2020

Current guidance

The Government guidance released on 2nd July 2020 (with some updates in August) provided us with a context for their decision to request all schools to open to all children from September and issued guidance for schools to adhere to and manage when opening. The guidance for schools can be found in full [here](#).

Below is the link for information for parents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

At Longlands Primary School we have been working hard on our plans for a full reopening ensuring that we:

- **we fulfil the expectations required of us**
- **safety of everyone is paramount in all our decisions and actions**
- **we continue to provide a high quality, well balanced curriculum to best support our pupils in their education.**

Keeping children and staff safe

All schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Essential measures include:

- **a requirement that people who are ill stay at home**
- **robust hand and respiratory hygiene**
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- **active engagement with NHS Test and Trace**
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school, wherever possible, and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

All schools have been provided with a set of actions to prevent and respond to infection which are summarised below:

Prevention:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell
- clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene - 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- enhanced cleaning
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents

Does my child have to attend school in September?

Following the new government guidance, all schools will be open on a full- time basis from Wednesday 2nd September. In order for pupils to settle in and for us to test out our procedures, we are operating a phased return in the first few days back:

Wednesday 2 nd	Year 6 and Year 1
Thursday 3 rd	Year 5 and Year 2
Friday 4 th	Year 3 and Year 4.

School attendance will be mandatory again and the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Attendance is mandatory for all year groups from Friday 4th September.

Before your child leaves home every morning

Please check for any of the following symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to the sense of smell or taste

If any of these symptoms are evident do not send them to school, contact us on 01630 652312 or email admin.longlands@longlands.sat.coop as soon as possible.

Government advice must be followed, it can be found here.

What are some of the ways that you are ensuring the children are safe?

We are closely following all the government guidance and have updated our risk assessment to ensure our setting is as safe as we can make it. We will adopt the below steps in order to minimise risk:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, will not be permitted to attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly. We also have alcohol-based (over 70% alcohol) hand sanitiser available and will ensure this is used regularly
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for coughs and sneezes. All classrooms have pedal bins with lids
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces regularly
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout), timetables (such as staggered break, lunch, drop off and pick up times)
- all classes, toilets and sink areas will be cleaned thoroughly according to the government guidelines

What if my child is shielding?

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1st August. Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, please contact a member of the SLT and we will work with you to support your child in the best possible way we can.

What will my child wear to school?

Children will be asked to wear school uniform. Please don't hesitate to contact us if this proves difficult.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

- where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained
- where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE will continue to be used

What will my child's classroom look like?

Each class will form a bubble with no more than 30 pupils in it. Tables in the classrooms will be forward facing. Two children are permitted to sit side by side. There will be hand sanitiser available in each classroom and hand soap and sanitiser will be placed at each sink. There will be enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

Can staff move between two different bubbles?

All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes in order to facilitate the timetable. Where possible, they will try to keep a 2m distance.

What equipment will be available to the children?

Each pupil will be given their own pack containing a pencil, a pen, a pack of pencil crayons, a ruler and a glue stick for which they will be responsible for. These will be kept in a plastic wallet with the child's name on it.

Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the class bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. In KS1 and KS2 resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.

What will my child be taught and how will my child catch up on what they have missed?

All pupils will be taught the relevant curriculum for their year group. Initially we will prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in phonics and reading, writing and mathematics, identifying opportunities across the curriculum so that pupils read widely and develop their knowledge and vocabulary. Although there are some restrictions in place (e.g. singing in large groups) the curriculum will remain broad and balanced and the pupils will be taught a full range of subjects over the year through topics and key areas, including sciences, humanities, the arts, PE/sport, and RE.

Curriculum for recovery

Whilst we are confident that many children will quickly 'bounce back' after the lockdown we are aware that there will be some children returning who have experienced bereavements amongst friends or family or who have experienced anxiety or stress during this time.

In September we have planned a specially designed curriculum for our children to support their adjustments. Information is available on our website. We also have a fully planned remote package to revert to if needed.

Will my child be assessed at the beginning of the year?

Our teachers will make adaptations establishing next steps rather than sticking rigidly to our usual long term plans. Class teachers will use their own expertise to establish starting points for each class in the autumn term in order to move forward with confidence.

To strengthen routines, relationships and resilience it is important that, in a measured supportive way, teachers and children get back to established ways of working rather than spending too long on a formal testing regime, especially when children's confidence will be low.

My child has additional needs. How will they be supported?

We are aware that for some children with additional needs, returning to school after lockdown may cause additional anxiety or stress. Children with additional needs will be supported by the school inclusion team to ensure a smooth transition when returning to school. Miss Mitchell and Mrs Winfield have been working with our families to support children in their transition back into school. In some cases, children with additional needs may require a risk assessment to be completed.

Staff will continue to be responsive to the needs of individual pupils and additional support will be provided where necessary. Small group or 1:1 support may take a different form in the autumn term so that adults and children remain safe, for example, sitting side by side, staff and pupils working at a greater distance from each other, and working in different parts of the school building. Staff who are in close contact with individual children may wear PPE.

What can my child bring to school?

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment that they bring into school each day to essentials such as a **named water bottle**, lunch box, a snack, coat and book bag.

Will my child be bringing home a reading book?

Reading books can still be brought home, however on their return to school **they will be placed in a box** and left for 72 hours before returning to the shelves. If your child has a reading book at home, please return on the first day back in September.

Will my child be doing PE?

Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible and no contact sports will be played in order to maximise the distancing between pupils. Activities such as the Daily Mile, Zumba, active break and lunchtimes and encouraging active travel will help enable pupils to be physically active while encouraging physical distancing. Pupils will only be taught in their class bubble for sport and PE and any sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised between each individual's use and left for 72 hours before use by another bubble.

What about a PE kit?

We ask that on the day that your child's class is timetabled to do PE that they wear their PE kit to school for the full day. Your child's class teacher will communicate to you which day the class will be doing PE. There will be no PE on a Fridays until further notice.

What will playtimes and lunchtime playtimes look like?

Classes will remain in their class bubble and play in their own allocated area of the school in order to keep all class bubbles separate.

Will my child have lunch at school?

We will be providing a hot dinner service as normal. Each class will be eating in their classroom to avoid large gatherings in the hall. Classrooms will then be cleaned when the pupils are out at play. Pupils will still be permitted to bring a packed lunch if they wish. We have arrangements in place to ensure that during lunch time separation between 'bubbles' is maintained. Children will always have the chance to wash their hands within the classroom before eating.

Year 3 parents should be aware that universal free school dinners do not apply in KS2 and that payment for meals booked will be required. We are aware that many families' situations have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore if you could now be entitled to free school meals and the pupil premium funding. Please check on the Shropshire website to see if you meet the criteria for free school meals.

What if my child brings a packed lunch?

Please ensure your child has all the cutlery they need and their meal is easy for them to manage on their own.

Will drinking water be available on site?

All pupils should have their own school water bottle that is untouched by other children or staff. No water fountains are currently available at school. Water is available in school to refill children's own water bottles.

Assemblies

There will be no traditional whole school or key stage assemblies during the first part of the autumn term and these will be replaced by a virtual assemblies which will be watched by children remotely via their classroom whiteboard.

We are keeping an open mind about Harvest and Christmas productions but all should be aware that, even at this early stage, full-scale productions ***look unlikely in the autumn term.***

Will breakfast and after school clubs be running? (wrap-around care)

In September we will be running a breakfast club and after school club (now known as Kids Quest) but with reduced numbers in order to maintain adequate social distancing. The Kids Quest after school provision will be split into a KS1 and KS2 group. Please fill in the on-line form by following link that has now been sent via a text to all parents if you require a place for next September. This will be on a first come, first served basis for at least the first half-term. Parents should be aware that children are likely to mix with a limited number of children outside their 'bubble' in wrap-around. We have made the decision that this was justifiable given that the alternative is no provision at all for working parents. The children will sanitise their hands regularly and additional cleaning measures will be in place.

You will have been notified if you have a space in our breakfast school provision. You will need to enter school at the Rowan Road gate 8 AM and use Pine Class door entrance.

Will you be running 'after school' clubs?

We will be running some after school clubs from the second week of September. These will be divided into KS1 and Key Stage 2 and places will be limited. Please fill out the on-line form if you would like to book a place for your child.

Can I visit the school during the school day?

No. The school office will remain closed to personal visitors. Parents should do all they can to ensure that children have all that they need for the day (e.g. packed lunches) at the start of the day and if there is an instance where their child needs to be collected at a different time, they should telephone the school to make arrangements. An office staff member will then arrange to meet parents with their child in the open air at the front of the school at main reception. All other communication should be done by telephone or e-mail as far as possible.

Communication

Communication with parents is really important to us. Due to the current restrictions we would request that meetings with members of staff are by prior arrangement only so that social distancing and safety precautions can be put in place. If you would like a phone conversation or a face to face meeting please email admin.longlands@longlands.sat.coop or telephone the office 01630 652312 to support making these arrangements.

Please keep face to face conversations to a minimum at the school gates or on the playground. A data collection sheet will be sent to you at the beginning of term. Please ensure this is correct, up-to-date with ALL contact details and returned to school promptly.

My child or a member of the household is showing signs of coronavirus – can my child still attend school?

No. If your child or anyone in your household shows signs of coronavirus, you must all self-isolate as per government guidelines and contact school immediately.

If a child or member of staff at school develops symptoms during the school day, what will happen?

When a case is suspected in school, the child will be immediately isolated from other pupils and staff. The member of staff supervising the child will try to ensure they remain two metres away while still aiming to provide the reassurance and that care particularly young children will need. Enhanced PPE will be worn by the staff member and older children may be offered a mask. The school will contact parents and request they collect their child from the school immediately and parents must book a test. A staff member displaying symptoms will be sent home and asked to arrange a test.

The guidance says '*Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.*' A test can be obtained by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Parents of all pupils in the bubble will be informed that a pupil or staff member has been sent home with suspected symptoms. We will not share the names or details of people suspected of having or confirmed to have coronavirus. Pupils and staff with symptoms should remain at home and self-isolate until the results of the test.

If the test is negative, pupils and staff members can return to their setting and fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

If the test is positive, the class bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The school will consult with Public Health England and act according to their advice. This will be swiftly communicated to all our parents. (Please see COVID-19 Stay-at-home Flowchart by clicking the link below)

<file:///C:/Users/zcope/Downloads/Flowchart%20Stay-at-home.pdf>

What will happen if there is another lockdown?

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, school will have the capacity to offer remote education.

I hope this information answers many of your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact the school via phone or email if you have any specific questions or queries.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe in these unprecedented times



Zillah Cope Head teacher