LONG MEADOW SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Gray BEd (Hons) CANTAB, NPQH

Wednesday May 20th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you last week updating you on our first steps in preparation for opening to the children of Critical workers, vulnerable children, **EYFS, Y1 and Y6** on the 1st June 2020. Although all of the difficulties and worries regarding planning are still with us, we are at the next step of our planning process. Knowing that we have families who will do their upmost to ensure their children are enjoying their learning at home makes our job as teachers so much easier. This is a team effort and as we move into the next phase the need for us all to work together has never been stronger.

Firstly, thank you to all of the parents that were able to complete the survey, this has allowed us to make some large decisions about the HOW of us, maybe, partially re-opening. Please note, this plan is still subject to the government go -ahead following scientific evidence. I also wanted to clarify that, whilst the government encourages children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend school, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions), parents will not be penalised for non-attendance this term.

I wrote with regards to how school will be a very, very different place to what some children and parents were maybe expecting. Unfortunately, the picture I painted will still be the reality if we open on June 1st. Again, as you are aware, this is needed to ensure the safety of everyone connected with our school.

However, I can now announce that due to predicted low numbers, our plan, if we open, is to open to all eligible year groups (as above) **On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and then on Friday mornings only. We plan to close at 12pm on Fridays** (with children taking a packed lunch home) to allow for a deep clean of the school and preparation for teachers for the upcoming week both in school and on Google Classroom.

**Staggered starts and break times/fresh air breaks**

The beginnings and end of days will need to be staggered in order to limit risks and reduce movement around the school. We will also stagger break and lunchtimes for the same reason. The school will provide packed lunches to those who require it or children can bring in their own. There will be no hot dinners available: it will just be a packed lunch option when you order lunches online. All children and parents will enter through the main gate, follow the one way system around the school to find their child's allocated room (which will be clearly labelled) and exit through the EYFS/KS1 gate. The top gate will not be open. I also need to make you aware that parents/carers will not be able to enter the allocated room under any circumstances.

**EYFS**

Arrive at 9.15am

Collected at 2.45pm (Fridays at 11.45am)

**Yr1**

Arrive at 9.00am

Collected at 3.00pm (Fridays at 12.00pm)

**Yr6**

Arrive at 8.45am

Collected at 3.15pm (Fridays at 12.15pm)

C**hildren of Critical Workers and Vulnerable children not in these year groups**

Arrive at 9.15am

Collected at 2.45pm

**Children will be organised into small groups**

It is still our intention to organise the children into small groups/pods of no more than 8. They will be managed by a lead adult (preferably a teacher) and supported by a Learning Support Assistant where possible. All children and adults will be expected to exercise social distancing, as well as enhanced levels of hygiene, including handwashing, toilet use and regular cleaning.

Groups will stay in their ‘bubble’ and will be led by a range of adults from across the school. They will not come into contact with other children or adults throughout the day. Children are more than likely not going to be with their class teacher and more likely than not in their own classroom.

**Maintaining social distancing**

Classrooms will be arranged so that children and adults can maintain the recommended 2m distance apart. We do understand that this will be particularly challenging for our younger children, but we will do everything we can to ensure that the children feel happy within their new classroom. We are doing our best to reduce risk at all times.

Where we can, we will utilise the good weather and our outdoor spaces. Sadly however we will not be able to allow children to use the outdoor apparatus as we cannot clean these thoroughly between groups, but we do hope to organise sets of smaller PE equipment for each class that can be easily sanitized.

**Our educational offer**

We will try our utmost to provide equality for all pupils. This means that the learning in school will mirror as far as possible the learning provided on Google |Classroom These high quality learning activities will continue for all, whether they are at home or at school.

**PPE**

Whilst the government has suggested that face coverings/masks are not needed in school, I must advise you that some of our staff may choose to wear PPE when in school. This will make them feel safer and they will not be asked to remove them. If parents decide that they wish for their child to wear a face mask, again children will not be asked to remove them. However, please note that children must be able to take them off and reinstate them themselves, staff are unable to do this for children.

Following this next update on our planning, we need your help again. To create these bubbles, including allocating staff and rooms, we are asking all parents who **ARE sending their child to school on 1st June**  to complete the following survey to give us the most accurate numbers possible.

**This is for EYFS , Y1 and Y6 only**

When completing the survey please:

* Consider all the information in this and the previous update
* Complete a survey for **EACH** of your children. This will involve filling it in more than once
* This survey is not binding, if you change your mind by 1st June that is not a problem
* If you decide that you do not wish your child to attend at this time, we understand this and our current attendance policy will not apply. There will be no penalty for non-attendance
* Google Classroom will continue for home learning and will mirror the learning in school as closely as possible.

The survey for **EYFS, Y1 and Y6 ONLY** can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/RZ9cVMXEGFJ3HYWW8>

If parents do not complete the survey but then decide that they want to send their child into school on or after the 1st June, please email emergnecy@longmedow.milton-keynes.sch.uk to let us know and we will allocate a group to your child. This also applies to parents who change their mind not to send or remove them after the 1st June.

For those parents who have children who are not in EYFS, Y1 or Y2, but believe they need childcare from the 1st June due to them being a Critical worker or their child qualifying as vulnerable, please fill in the survey which can be found below:

The survey for **critical workers and vulnerable children ONLY** can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/nabb7BbnQgqYc4Lt9>

I would urge parents who believe they qualify to be a critical worker and want to send their child to school to read the guidance which can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

***Please be reminded that if you don't complete the survey and change your mind, this is not a problem. This is also the same for if you say yes to coming and then again change your mind. All we will need is an email to the emergency@ email to let us know.***

Please also note that **SCHOOL IS CLOSED to ALL CHILDREN FOR HALF TERM** next week. This gives us the opportunity to prepare the school site fully for opening on the 1st June. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. T**here will be no learning provided on Google Classroom for this week.**

For parents of children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5, online home learning is always available on Google Classroom. Please continue to login and complete your learning as before. This is of course also available and will continue to be for any child not attending school

We know we have given lots of information to you all recently but feedback says you all appreciate it and the honesty of it. We want parents to make the best, informed decision they can for the well-being of their children.

To aid this, we have also created an overview of some of the comments parents made on our last survey, which you will find attached to this letter. We hope it helps.

I fully appreciate that this is quite a bit of information for you to digest but I do hope you now have a better idea of how we intend to welcome the children back to LMS. This is just an outline and I will provide you with more information once the staff and I have worked out the finer details. As you can imagine, government guidelines might well be adapted as the national picture changes, but I will keep you informed should that be the case.

My priority is for all staff, children and their families to stay well and keep safe. Should you choose not to return your child to school I will absolutely respect your decision. Equally, if you need to go back to work and would like your child to return to school please be assured that we will do everything we can to keep them safe and well cared for and ensure they enjoy their time in school as much as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and may I take this opportunity to once again thank you for your amazing support. For parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children please ensure you have responded to the Google survey by **12.00pm on Friday 18th May and that you have completed it for EACH child,** so that we have a better idea of pupil numbers going forward and let you know further details. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school via the emergency email account.

Best wishes

Mr Gray

Headteacher