



# LONG MEADOW SCHOOL

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Well the first week of the 'new normal' is complete. Google Classroom still continues to be a success and we seem to have fewer technical problems so 'Mr Gray's Technical Support Desk' is happy! Please keep using it as before and teachers will be responding as soon as they can. On most occasions this will be after school or on their day dedicated to it at home. Our aim is to provide equality of our curriculum to those at home and in school. Our staff are working hard to ensure this balance but at times it's not easy. Please keep logging in, contacting teachers and sharing that wonderful learning.

The government have now decided to review their initial statement of even wider opening to more year groups for the last 4 weeks of the term. Wales yesterday announced school opening, for all children, on a rota basis for the last 4 weeks of term. This will mean they will have a maximum of 1/3 of children on site at once. Due to our government's partial opening to EYFS, Y1 and Y6, we do not know how any further opening will look, if at all. As ever we will prioritise the safety of the children and staff with every decision.

Once again a huge thank you to all parents/carers that have sent us messages this week, whether their children are at home or at school, it's been so nice to hear that people think we are doing our best. We do try and will continue to provide the best experience for children when online or at school. We are all part of the LMS family.

We have had lots of positive feedback to our honest and open communication regarding how our school would be, and now is, operating. However some parents may have mistaken open and honest for negative and discouraging. This was never our intention. From day one we wanted and continue to want parents to make decisions based on the potential safety of their children, not on the education they will receive. In school, I make many, many decisions every day, and every single one I make is as a head teacher, but also as a father. I shared the information I would want to know as a parent to allow me to make the best decision possible. Please accept my apologies if any of you read our communications in a negative way.

As the picture is ever changing, we have had to move some bubbles (from Monday) to different rooms. This allows us to increase our capacity in some bubbles (if we ever needed it) by using a double classroom raising the capacity to 15 (if we ever needed it). Those bubbles which this affects were emailed separately yesterday.

ParentPay has now been reactivated and orders for packed lunches for week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June must be placed by midnight on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Lunches are available to all children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 and those children in Year 6 and the Keyworker/Vulnerable group who are entitled to free school meals. There are three options per day and orders can be placed for the whole term at once if required.

Tweak of the week is that those attending school need to be dressed appropriately. Some children have been turning up this week without coats and jumpers and unfortunately the weather had changed. Please also note that as part of our risk reducing measures, our doors and windows are open all day whatever the weather so classrooms are colder than usual so please take this into consideration.

As an SLT we are now starting to think of September, and who will be teaching which class. As ever, as soon as we finalise this we will let you know. As part of this, I am pleased to announce that Mr Ian Summers will be joining our staff team in September as a class teacher. We are looking forward to working with him. This appointment also allows us to keep Mrs Evans in a non-teaching role once Miss Kidd returns from her maternity leave. Mrs Evans will continue her leadership role with a key responsibility for Teaching and Learning. We know all children will be at different points when we eventually return fully and Mrs Evans will be leading in this area, using her skills and experience and supporting staff right across the school. We have also been able to recruit Mrs Kelly Hargreaves to our teaching team for September. Mrs Hargreaves has been an integral part of our school for many years and now becomes a member of staff. We are so excited about having her join us!

As of today, we do not know what the new academic year will look like, but as a school we are preparing for September as we usually would and will adapt if we need to once the government have a clearer outlook of what this will look like. As ever, we will keep you informed as soon as we know.

After many, many, many hours laminating, hole punching and threading, our 'Arms Around LMS' self-portraits went up this week. If you want to add to this, please drop them off on the table in the foyer and we will add it on. It's not too late. This display will remind us that whatever happens, we are still one big family. We also need some new rainbows drawn and coloured for the main gate - can you help?

Finally this week, some links and information to support your children during this pandemic- as ever we hope it helps

### **Space related educational resources for home schooling**

The UK Space Agency has published a collection of space related educational resources that schools, parents and carers can use when teaching their children at home. What better way to tap into the interest of children following the recent launch of SpaceX! The resources are available [here](#).

### **Parent/carer guidance for supporting their child mental health**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak#bullying>

### **Latest guidance on travel to school**

When planning your journey to school, particularly if using public transport, you should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers. Pupils and parents should do all they can to help make sure they and others can travel safely. This can be done through:

- not leaving home if anyone in their household has symptoms of coronavirus
- avoiding travelling on public transport, particularly at peak times
- maintaining a 2 metre distance from others who are not in their household
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- avoiding touching their face
- washing their hands thoroughly before and after travelling
- wearing a face covering if they need to use public transport

Whatever the rest of the country is doing, wherever they are going, please rest assured that everyone at LMS is adhering to social distancing and our enhanced cleaning procedures as well as our commitment to an equal access curriculum whether at home or at school.

Stay safe and please continue to look after each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Gray', enclosed within a simple, irregular hand-drawn rectangular border.

Philip Gray  
Headteacher