



LONG MEADOW SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Carers

As ever, the end of term has crept up on us, even in these unusual times. In school it is strange how quickly you can become used to working in a different way, at different times, with different children. However, nothing will replace having our whole school full again with the sound of children.

As a school we are now finalising our operational plans for re-opening. This includes full risk assessments for every element of school life. We refuse to compromise on the safety of the children, the staff and all of the connected families at any point. We will be open fully, but we will do it safely. We will be issuing our latest plans to parents next week, and also offering the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. What we will guarantee is that all children will get their full curriculum time entitlement (even though they may start and finish at slightly different times) and we will provide an engaging, supportive curriculum to fill gaps, and support and extend learning.

As you are aware, we will be open fully to all pupils in September but wanted this week to share another section of the UK Government guidance with you.

Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

We now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. You should note however that:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).*
- shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#).*
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent (see below).*
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#).*

Sports week

Firstly, a huge thank you to Mr Steel for providing the LMS community with a daily challenge video this week. Although it could never replace our amazing sports day, it has gone a long way to showing what we are all about. There have been some super examples on Twitter and it's been good to see the attempts both at home and in school (except one year 6 bubble that looked to struggle with sit-ups!) There's still time to share yours on Google Classroom or Twitter so let's see what you can do.

Transition

It was great to see Mrs Wright and Mrs Frost running our first Google Meet parent information meeting; it was very daunting for them but they did so well. New class teachers have been, or soon will be, completing Google Meets with their new class or sharing an 'All About Me' video with them. We know it is not our usual procedure but we hope it gives the children a flavour ready for September.

And finally, some good news in a time of great sadness. Miss Salter got engaged recently and I know you will join me in congratulating her and her fiancé. It's brought a ray of sunshine to LMS this week.

Enjoy your weekend and let's hope for some sun.

Yours sincerely

Philip Gray
Headteacher