**Long Meadow School**

**September 2020 Opening Parent FAQs**

**What are the school times and is the school closed on Friday afternoons?**

Each year group has different start and finish times, but all year groups get the same amount of access to curriculum time - they are just starting and finishing earlier or later. Our school will be returning to its normal full working days, Monday-Friday.

**What size will the groups be?**

We are using our whole year group as our ‘consistent groups’. This means children will stay within these groups all day and not mix with other groups. Children may mix with children from the other class in the year group at various points during the day.

**Where do I take my child in the mornings?**

All children and parents will enter through the staff car park gates. You will then need to follow the one way system around the school to either find the classroom/cloakroom door of their class or the cloakroom door for their class (see attached sheet as to who goes where). This is to ensure that we reduce the numbers of children at entrances and exits. Please adhere to 2m social distancing at all times. If there are people in front of you, please use the markings to help you keep your distance. Please do not stop at any point to chat with other parents as this will cause a queue and will not allow safe social distancing.

**What time do I drop my child off?**

To ensure safe social distancing, we have staggered the start and finish times. The site is closed to parents until their drop off allocated time slot. There is to be no stopping, congregating and socialising on or around the school site please. If you have children in different year groups, please drop off all your children at the earliest slot you have been allocated. This also applies to the times to pick up your children. *PLEASE ONLY ARRIVE FOR YOUR ALLOCATED SLOT.*

**What if my child resists going in?**

Unfortunately, staff can only verbally encourage your child to come in. If your child does find it difficult please move away from the entrance to comfort your child and once they have a gap, then staff will be able to verbally support you. Unfortunately, we cannot have parents stopping with children within the system. Going around again will allow us to give the time to support you and your child.

**Can I go into the classroom or speak to the teacher?**

No, unfortunately this is not possible whilst we are under these conditions. Parents are not allowed into the school building without an appointment. If you wish to leave a message for the teacher, please do this through the school office.

**Where do I pick my child up?**

The same routine will apply to pick up as drop off. Please use the one way system. Your children should be ready for you to collect and exit immediately. This means please ensure conversations with your child are in the one way system or once you are off the school site. Some pickups will need to be a ‘pick up and go’ where as some may require you to use a social distancing ‘cone’ or ‘spot’ on the playground whilst you wait for your child. Staff will be on hand to support you.

**What will my child do for lunch?**

Due to the current situation with our school kitchens, we will only be providing a packed lunch option for children in school**.** Of course children may also bring their own packed lunch from home. Parents should have received an email from the office regarding this already.

**What does my child need to wear?**

From September, full school uniform should be worn at school. This includes school shoes. Any patterns shaved into the children's hair should be grown out, hair should not be dyed and we are asking for all long hair to be tied back. This reduces the amount of time children are touching their faces. There is no need to change your usual pattern of washing the uniform.

**Can my child bring in healthy snacks and drinks?**

Your child can bring in a healthy snack etc as they did before we shut. There is no change here.

**What if my child hurts themself during the day?**

If your child hurts themselves and requires basic first aid, this will be dealt with in the ‘consistent group’ itself. Staff may choose to wear PPE for this to allow them to support your child in the best way. If your child requires more than basic first aid, they will be dealt with by a trained adult who will require PPE due to them being outside of the child's consistent group. You will then receive a text to say they have received first aid, as we will not be sending slips home.

**Do they need to wear a mask?**

For September, Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as children and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. If children arrive in masks they will be instructed not to touch the front of their face when removing them. They must remove their mask before entering the building. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin (to be provided) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them. They are not to be worn during the day at school.

**Will staff be wearing masks?**

The above guidance applies to both adults and children in the school;. In particular, we feel masks may inhibit communication, and thus education, so staff will not be wearing masks unless in an identified PPE use situation.

**Do they need to bring in their own pencil case and equipment?**

Children at LMS will be provided with the equipment they need. Other equipment can be shared within a consistent group. Any equipment that may be shared between consistent groups will be cleaned thoroughly before being used between different groups. This includes PE equipment.

**Will they be playing with toys/ books?**

Yes, but as before, only within their consistent groups. Books will be available (including library books) with their group. To start with the whole school library will be closed. Toys used to support education in year groups will be sued but only within consistent groups.

**Are staff allowed to comfort children if they are sad or hurt?**

We will be practising social distancing as much as we possibly can., but parents must recognise that this is not always possible and this is reflected in the government guidance. Parents must also respect the decisions of staff who do not wish to break social distancing and that we have loved ones and families at home also. However the safeguarding of children will ALWAYS be our first priority, even above social distancing.

**What happens if they need the toilet?**

Children will be able to go to the toilet as frequently as they need. They will however be encouraged to go at key times and will go on their own. Toilets will be shared by consistent groups, and children will not be in the toilets at the same time as other consistent groups. Toilet flushes, door handles and taps etc will continue to be cleaned hourly by site staff.

**Will they be playing on the outside equipment?**

Yes. We will be reopening the equipment during the day. Before and after use, children will be washing their hands and site staff will disinfect the equipment after the break and lunch period. Play equipment MUST NOT be used or touched before or after school in any way

**Will they be washing their hands regularly/using antibac?**

Yes. As a school we have identified key wash points throughout the day as a minimum.(see attached poster) This is the minimum we require. However, children will be encouraged to wash them regularly and antibac foam will be available for classrooms. Children will also be able to bring in hand cream for their own use (not to be shared) to counteract the dryness that occurs from this, if parents so wish.

**How will the school get pupils to remain 1m+ from each other?**

As we have stated from the very start, everything we do will be to reduce any risk. Measures in place to keep children apart include;

* Consistent groupings across the school
* Desks all facing forward in the classroom, so children will be sitting side on to each other
* Carpet spaces which face forward where possible
* Staggered start, finish, break and lunchtimes
* Constant positive reminders of social distancing

However, we cannot guarantee that the 1m+ distance will happen all day everyday, due to the nature of children being children, particularly with EYFS.

**If children forget to social distance at school will they be told off?**

No, children will be reminded positively about social distancing if they forget. However, the parents of children who do not follow instructions and break socially distancing guidelines frequently on purpose may receive a phone call from a senior member of staff to discuss the behaviour and agree a way forward.

**Will the schools be allowed to close if there is an outbreak of the virus or staff or children need to self-isolate?**

There are key things we will be doing to prevent and manage this within schools such as:

* Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home
* If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’, which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms
* Whilst a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to the Waterfall room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window will be opened for ventilation.
* If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet. This will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

Parents must be ready to;

* book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
* provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
* self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

We will then ask parents to inform immediately of the results of a test:

* if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
* if someone tests positive, they should follow the ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’ and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

**Will you be taking children's temperatures during the day?**

No, not routinely. If a child says they are feeling unwell, we will take their temperature as a matter of routine. If parents wish to take their child's temperature before school, please do and if they have a high temperature please do not send them to school and let us know.

**Will parents receive fines if they do not send their child to school because they feel it is too risky?**

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child’s non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children’s education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

* parents’ duty to secure that their child attends regularly at 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

**How will social distancing work with children who need one-to-one support?**

If children usually have 1:1 support, we will continue to provide this. At some points, depending on the nature of the 1:1, staff may wear some items of PPE. Staff will also work with children from the side to support them the majority of time. If there are individual differences, this will be discussed directly with specific parents

**Will school still make learning available to children if parents keep their children at home?**

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, we will try to offer immediate remote education through Google Classroom. This will not be provided for children who are off school for any other reason.

**Is the school office still open?**

Yes. The school office will be open, but Parents will not be able to have face to face contact without an appointment. Parents should use the office email address or phone if they need to. If parents need to drop things off, they can do this by leaving them on the designated table in the school foyer, office staff can then communicate with parents through the intercom.The Emergency @email will cease to be used from 6th September.

**Will they have access to computers?**

Not to start with. Due to the potential risk of cross contamination and the difficulty in cleaning computers, children will not have access to the ICT suite or iPads.We will then timetable the ICT suite to consistent groups weekly so that it can be deep cleaned in between.

**Will school provision be as normal?**

* Kids Play will be providing consistent grouping before and after school provision. Please contact them directly to arrange this.
* For a minimum of the first term, we will not be running any after school clubs.
* PE will be taught with socially distancing at all times and the children should come into school in the full LMS PE kit on the days they have PE. Teachers will inform children of what days these are is in September
* Home learning will continue- with a larger focus on the use of Google Classroom for this.
* We will be looking at school trips on a trip by trip basis as to whether they can go ahead.
* Assemblies will be in consistent groups with us using Google classroom to run them centrally. We hope that Long Meadow Legends will continue as part of this.