 LONG MEADOW SCHOOL

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**INFORMATION FOR THOSE PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE GAINED A CHILDCARE PLACE ONLY**

We have received a 500% increase in requests for places compared to March, this means the provision some of you may have experienced back then, will be very, very different this time. Where we had group sizes of 10/12 in March, the sizes of these groups will now approximately be 25-30 in January.

Due to this, I would ask you to reconsider whether the place is you requested is needed at all, if it is, could you reduce the number of sessions you require? I would like to remind you of some key points from the guidance

***“Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."***

***"The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend."***

***"Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home."***

***"Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."***

I raise this concern to you as the latest information regarding the latest strain of COVID-19 is published. The key points from this are:

* With the emergence of a new and highly transmissible strain of Covid-19, it is more important than ever to continue to encourage behaviours to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
* **Around 1 in 3 people have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it.**
* **Everyone should act as if they have the virus, even if they do not show any symptoms.**
* **Anyone can spread coronavirus.**
* The latest statistics also suggest that the rates of infection of primary aged children is increasing with the new strain

By sending your children to school if you do not need to, you are increasing the risk of them, and school staff, transmitting or catching the virus. If you are working at home it is safer for your child to be at home to, thus we are unable to provide care for parents working from home. If you wish to reconsider the place- please email [emergency@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:emergency@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk) to let us know.

**Staffing**

Due to teachers, planning, delivering and giving feedback via Google classroom, the school will be operating a skeleton staff and your child will be supervised by a number of adults, some who will be unfamiliar to them. This will be school support staff from across the school and not teachers. There will be no face to face teaching during this time. The children will be split into two large groups. One group will be in the ICT suite completing learning set by their teachers on Google Classroom, whilst the other group use the hall/outside for other curriculum learning. These groups will then swap spaces for the afternoon session. Both groups will include children from different age groups.

**Face Coverings**

To reduce the risk to children, as well as school staff who will be working with different children from across the school, staff may choose to wear a face covering whilst being with the children. This may be different from our policy of our last school opening, but is an added safety precaution during this period of closure.

**Timings**

Our school will be open from 9am until 3.00pm only. Gates will be opened at 8.55am. Please use the main school gate, walk around the current one-way system and make you way to the school hall. On Tuesday 5th January please can all parents use the hall door you are directed to. For the following days we will inform you which door to use. Please exit around the one-way system and out of the main gate.

We do not have the staffing to take children before this time or to be picked up after this time. Late pickups may result in the offer of childcare being removed. Children should be dropped off and picked up from the Hall. However, if you only require our provision for a certain number of hours during this time. Please only bring them bring for those hours and keep them at home for the rest of the time.

**Handwashing**

All children will need to wash their hands before **entering** the building. Please use the outdoor sinks situated behind the year 3 and 4 and year 5 and 6 classrooms to do this.

**What do they need?**

Your child/children will:

* Need a packed lunch (if not requiring a FSM School packed lunch) and a snack
* Need to wear their own clothes and not school uniform. However, this needs to be warm.
* Need to wear sensible footwear they can run/play in

**Behaviour Expectations**

Due to the childcare being provided by a range of adults from our school, we cannot operate our normal full school behaviour policy. Due to this, please be aware that if adults feel a child’s behaviour is unacceptable/dangerous, parents will be called to collect their child immediately.

If at any point your circumstances change and you no longer require the childcare, please email [emergency@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:emergency@longmeadow.milton-keynes.sch.uk) to let us know as soon as possible. This would include for example when another parent/carer is working at home.

Yours sincerely

Philip Gray- Headteacher