

Longhill Primary School

Summer Newsletter

13th July 2020



Dear parents and carers.

Firstly, thank you for your support over the last few months. We really appreciate everything you have done to support the school and your child/ren with home learning. We have seen some excellent examples of work completed at home!

Looking ahead to the new academic year..... Our trust have decided to cancel the training day scheduled for the first day of term so we get all of the children back as soon as possible. We therefore look forward to seeing all of the children back on **Monday 7th September 2020**.

We will continue to follow any new government guidelines to ensure the safety of children and staff, it goes without saying that the safety of your children and our staff is top priority. We are working hard to implement a number of new ways of operating; these procedures will allow us to open as safely as possible.

This newsletter will explain how school will look in September. There are lots of changes particularly around dropping off and picking children up so please take time to have a good read and take the information in.

We do understand that children and you as parents may have concerns and worries about September and we will do all we can to make the return to full opening as stress free as possible.

The first day back – Monday 7th September

There will be a one way system on the playground where all parents and children will enter the site from the main gate and leave from the far gate on the playground. We kindly ask that once you have dropped off your child you then leave the site as soon as possible. There will be signs letting you know which door your child needs to go in.

We have obviously been unable to do any transition work where children have the opportunity to meet with their new teachers and see their new classrooms. With this in mind the first morning back to school will run differently.

We are going to allocate different times for children to start school on Monday 7th September. Foundation Stage will start first to get the smaller children in and settled followed by the rest of the school.

New classteachers will be on the playground to meet their new classes where they will lead the children into school and show them their new cloakrooms and classrooms etc. The first week of school will be spent doing activities designed for the children to get to know each other, their new classteacher and support staff.

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On the first day please bring your child/ren to the playground at the following times:

8.30am to 8.45am - Foundation Stage 2 go to the Douglas Road gate.

9.15am – Year 1 and year 6 to be on the playground.

9.30am – Year 2 to be on the playground.

9.45am – Year 3 to be on the playground.

10.00am – Year 4 to be on the playground

10.15am – Year 5 to be on the playground

We do appreciate that some of you have children in different year groups but please stick to these times. This is only for one day so we can ensure that school starts calmly and that all children feel safe and comfortable when returning to school.

Arriving at school from Tuesday 8th September

From Tuesday 7th September there will be a 15 minute window between 8.30am – 8.45am where children can be dropped off at the doors leading off the playground. This will allow for a steady flow of children and parents entering the site rather than a mass gathering which we are trying to avoid.

All Foundation Stage children need to be dropped off at the Douglas Road entrance. If you have a child in another year group then please drop your Foundation child off first then come round to the playground entrance.

Please note that due to the one way system on the playground the children will be unable to bring scooters and bikes with them until further notice.

Leaving school from Monday 7th September

At the end of the school day there will be staggered pick up to keep the amount of people onsite to a minimum and aid social distancing. The one way system will be in place so please arrive through the main gates and leave through the far playground gate.

Please pick your children up between the following times:

Foundation Stage will begin to leave from 2.50pm from the Douglas Road exit.

Year 1 and 2 will start going home at 2.50pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground.

Year 3 and 4 will leave from 3.00pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground

Year 5 and 6 will leave from 3.10pm from the 2 doors leading onto the playground.

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There will be a 2m exclusion zone marked on the playground to ensure parents keep their distance from staff and children. Where possible please do not congregate in large groups and use the playground to spread out. There will clear signage showing where you need to be.

Again, we do appreciate that some of you have children in different year groups but please stick to these times and wait at a distance on the playground if you have wait for your child to finish.

What safety measures are we putting in place and what will the school day look like?

It is important that you are made aware that all risks cannot be eliminated but as a school we are doing as much as possible to minimise risk by following guidance and ensuring that handwashing/sanitising and cleaning of public areas is top priority.

Some of the steps we are taking include:

- We ask that anyone who displays symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend school. (*This includes children and staff.*) The family will then be asked to ALL get tested and your child/ren will not be able to return until they have had a 'negative' result confirmed. If two or more children test positive, within a 14 day period from the same class, then all the class will be sent home to isolate for 14 days.
- We will be keeping the children in yeargroup "bubble" groups, where possible, and with as much consistent staffing as possible. Some children will still be withdrawn for intervention and learning support but this will be with the same staff member to minimise risk. **Children will not be mixing with other children from other bubbles.**
- We will be continuing with good hygiene measures of regular hand washing/sanitising
- We will continue with our enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff areas cleaned regularly throughout the day and at the start of each morning, before the children arrive at school
- We ask that children **do not** bring toys with them from their household.
- Each "bubble" group will have a designated area to use outdoors. These spaces will be used as much as possible and children from other groups **will not** be permitted in another groups space
- Water bottles – children need to bring their own clearly labelled bottles. Children will bring these home each day to be washed and refilled with fresh water.
- We will not be having any whole school gatherings, such as assembly, Golden Assembly or plays/concerts. Therefore, unfortunately, this year there will be no Christmas plays. Although this is an unfortunate situation, it will ensure the safety of all pupils/staff and parents and is a measure being adopted by all the schools in our trust.

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- Lunchtime – at the start of term children will have their lunches in the classroom. Hot lunches are being delivered to the classrooms. The children will then have a set time to play. Hot lunches will be available and can be delivered to the classrooms or children are able to bring a packed lunch. – more information below

As you will see, we are taking as many necessary precautions as possible to ensure pupils are safe whilst at school. We understand this is a worrying time but we feel confident that our new measures will help to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Lunchtimes

For the first part of the term children will be eating in classrooms with hot meals being delivered. We will work towards reopening the dining hall as the term progresses.

Please see the lunch menu that will be on offer next term:

Lunch Options

Lunches can be ordered on the day (no pre ordering is necessary at this point)

If your child does not like part of the option then please send them with a packed lunch.

	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
Monday	Cheese and tomato pizza and potato wedges.	Jacket potato	Grab bag
Tuesday	Sausage sandwich Cucumber sticks	Jacket Potato	Grab bag
Wednesday	Chicken Fillet in bread cake with pasta pot.	Jacket Potato	Grab bag
Thursday	Breaded chicken in tortilla wrap with roast potatoes.	Jacket Potato	Grab bag
Friday	Fish, chip and beans	Jacket Potato	Grab bag

Each option will have a pudding which will also be accompanied by fruit and a drink of water.

Jacket potatoes can be served with cheese and beans or one of the options.

Grab bag sandwiches will be a choice of ham, cheese, tuna or egg.

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The school day and curriculum

The school day should have a normal feel to it. With the exception of whole school assemblies the timetable of the day will be as normal as possible with a full curriculum being taught.

Access to the school office

At the beginning and the end of the school day the office will be CLOSED to all parents so that the area is kept free to stop any congestion. We have to prevent crowds and queues forming outside of the school office or this will block the way one way system and prevent social distancing on the school site. Therefore, if you need to come into school for any reason then please ring in advance to arrange a suitable time. There will be a strict one in and one out system.

PE kit

Children will be able to attend school wearing their PE kit on the day they do PE.

PE kit – light blue or white t shirt – black or navy blue shorts / black or navy tracksuit bottoms and trainers (children must have this PE kit to come to school in.) Children can still wear their school jumper.

These are the days when each year group are doing PE:

Monday – **Year 2**

Tuesday – **Foundation Stage and Year 3**

Wednesday – **Year 4**

Thursday – **Year 1 and Year 6**

Friday - **Year 5**

Will there be a breakfast club/after school club?

As we normally have between 90-100 children attending Breakfast club we will not be able to operate the club for the first part of term as we would be unable to keep the year group bubbles apart from one another. We will review this during the first half term. For the same reason we will be unable to run an after school club but will also review this.

After school clubs

Unfortunately, after school clubs will **NOT** be running for at least the first term. (September – December 2020) We will review this at the end of the term and follow any new government guidance. If we are permitted, we will start to run clubs from January 2021.

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School trips

All school trips, including the planned residential visit, are cancelled until further notice. As soon as we can start taking children on school trips then we will look to do so.

Goodbye and good luck year 6

This has obviously been a very tough time for many people but our year 6 children have been particularly affected. They were unable to sit their SATS tests which they work so hard towards and at this time of year we would normally be having leavers services and treat days before they leave us. As this hasn't been able to happen we will look to invite our year 6 children back in the future so we can say goodbye properly. In the meantime, we would like to wish every single one of our children the very best of luck in the future and hope that they have a great start to life in their next schools. You will all be missed!

Hello to Miss Hyde!

We are delighted to welcome Miss Hyde to our staff. Miss Hyde has already spent time with us during her teacher training year and is now a fully qualified teacher who will be teaching in year 2.

Finally...

We understand that is a lot of information to take in; members of staff will be around on the first day to help with any difficulties.

In the meantime, we would like thank all of you for your patience, understanding and support during the last few months. We hope that you have valued the support given to you by the school staff and I'm sure your with us in thanking the staff who have helped support home learning and kept the school open since the start of the crisis.

We have been very busy getting the school ready for September and have a few surprises to show the children when they return! We are really looking forward to seeing all of the children back in school!

Please keep safe everybody and enjoy the Summer holidays. See you in September!

Best wishes

Mr Batty and Mrs Pearce