



19.03.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to ‘touch base’ with you all during this time which I know is exceptionally difficult for everyone. I want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to support your child and family as best we can.

As you know, the government made an announcement yesterday about the closure of schools and some of the messages given have implications for children in special schools (as all of our pupils at Longwill have an EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan). Schools with pupils who have EHCPs or have key workers are being asked to stay open.

At this moment in time, therefore, Longwill will remain open. Having said that, the situation remains ‘fluid’ and is changing by the day. Please be assured that I will share with you as much information as I can and as quickly as I can. I will place this letter on the school website so that parents can easily access my latest messages – even if they are self-isolating at home. Also, we will use our parent text facility to keep in touch.

You should now have received home learning packs for your children. This has a wealth of online resources (your packs contain your child’s username and passwords). Also, they have lots of paper resources and reading material Bug Club is a super online reading resource and there is plenty to read there too! We hope to provide pupils with a daily ‘StoryTime’ in BSL and a weekly ‘Challenge Time’ activity. These will be easily accessible from the front of the school website. Teachers will be monitoring the usage and activity of their pupils remotely and so, will provide more guided learning as children progress through the online activities.

Many pupils and families are away from school already for a variety of reasons (about half the school). Also, we have some staff shortages because of the situation. At present, we have enough staff to run the school safely. However, if I feel that we do not have enough staff in school, then I will continue to make pupil safety a school priority and might have to close the school. Naturally, I will work closely with the LA and yourselves if this should become a concern.

We are keen to keep in contact with you. Please will you send in your updated email contact details in case we do not have your latest information? Also, as I mentioned earlier, if parents are ‘keyworkers’ in organisations like the NHS or schools, please will you let us know.

Finally, can I reassure you we will continue to support you all as best we can. Please do read carefully the guidance about what to do should a family member become ill or if a person is in any vulnerable medical group. This will help you decide if you wish/should to send your child into school.

Yours faithfully

Headteacher

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