



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We want to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Longwill we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Birmingham City Council.

### What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal. Our Breakfast Club continues to run each morning for pupils who would like to eat something on arrival in school.
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - a new, continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally. Please ring or text school by gam each and every day your child is ill and not in school
- We are taking decisions about any planned trips on an individual basis. The Y3 Bookfest trip and also the Football Competition has been cancelled by the organisers. We will update you about any other dates as we go along.
- Visitors to school will continue to be welcomed, but we may change this decision at some point if we received updated advice from DFE (Department for Education), PHE (Public Health England or BCC (Birmingham City Council).
- We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

### What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- If your child feels ill whilst at school, we will contact you and discuss what is in the best interest of the child. This might be some Calpol or we might ask that you come and collect your child from school as soon as possible.
- We have a rigorous cleaning schedule in place already, but we have further enhanced because of the current situation. We have introduced an additional midday clean of 'touchpoints' and our cleaning team are prioritising 'touchpoints' and all surfaces within their daily after school cleaning.
- We have spoken to pupils about the importance of hand-washing. Please do help us by reinforcing this at home
- Alcohol based hand sanitiser is available within school
- Staff have explained to pupils the importance of covering their mouth when coughing or sneezing, with tissues being disposed of immediately
- Toilets are kept clean and well stocked with hand soap
- We are taking steps to prepare staff and children for remote / home working
- We are keeping up to date with Public Health England (PHE) and relaying regular updates and advice to staff
- Lessons for pupils about hygiene have taken place and staff have spoken to children about corona virus in a way which will be appropriate for their age, ability and understanding. We feel it is important not to make pupils over anxious in any way, but just aware of how they can keep themselves as safe as possible

### What we need you to do

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email or telephone

**Headteacher** | Alison Carter ★  
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- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround \(https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51877454\)](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51877454) has regular updates for children and can help with any anxiety pupils might feel
- There is plenty of information available in BSL at: <https://www.signhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/>
- Please collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- We have a wealth of online learning resources, which provide remote teaching in the event of a closure. Your child has access to these from home. Class teachers are sending home your child's username and passwords for Purple Mash, Mathletics, Espresso and Bug Club (reading). Please let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

### What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school. In either case, we will:

- Alert you to closure, via a text and a post on our website ([www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)).
- Advise you when the school will be reopened via our Teachers to Parents service (text message).
- Also, we will post updates on the school website.
- Over the next few days, teachers will be planning work for pupils during closure. There will be all the usual online resources as well as some worksheets, which will be appropriate for your child as well as reading materials available. More information will be coming out over the next few days.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close, though this position may change in the future.

### If you have any questions

Please consult the School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue

- [NHS \(https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online \(https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19\)](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools

It is a tricky time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Alison Carter  
Headteacher  
16.03.20

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