



## HT Update (COVID19) for Parents 30.03.20

### HT Update to Parent 30.03.20

I hope this update finds you all as well as can be expected and that you are all beginning to find a new household routine during these difficult times.

We have spoken to many of you this week and know that this has been the longest week of your lives. We know how you are worrying about your loved ones, family and friends and, most significantly - your children. We are all here for each other! Do please email us or text school if you would like a phone call about your child or any aspect of their home schooling.

**Learning tips for home schooling.** It is intense! Do not feel you have to replicate the whole normal school day.

- Plan for short bursts of home 'learning'. Do not think that you should be replicating hour long lessons. This is impossible in the home situation and with young children
- Make it practical..! Cooking, for instance, encompasses so many literacy and maths skills, yet the children will not think about this ... all they will focus on is the end result which they might eat! Craft activities are also a good idea. Another suggestion might be activities around the garden.
- Try to make them fun! Learning should be enjoyable for parents and children Encourage child to burn off energy. Joe Wicks PE sessions (on youtube) at 9am each morning could be a great way to start the day.
- Routine: as we all know, children thrive in routine. In this pandemic, their routines are changed beyond all measure. So, try to put in place some gentle daily routines for them. This will help.
- If any parents feels they need more support and guidance, do look at the advice from our Education Psychologists 'Top Tips' which is available on our Parents Page on the front page of the school website. If you need further advice to support your child's well-being, please do get in touch.

**Signed Resources** ... look at these other school website and other sites for the Deaf. Most of these are already on our 'Other Links' page on the website, but I have picked a few to explore:

<https://www.fbarnes.cmden.sch.uk/>

Lots of Signed Stories in BSL

<https://www.bslzone.co.uk/>

Information and entertainment in BSL

If any parents would like to create **visual timetables**, then please contact your teachers to ask for Communicate in Print graphics. Let us know what you need and we will try to create the resources for you.

**BSL Level One Course** is being provided free from the Doncaster School for the Deaf! With many people self-isolating now, this resource is welcome! Now, would be a great time to learn alongside your child and develop your signing skills even further. More information can be found on their website:

<https://www.facebook.com/DoncasterDeafTrust/>

We want to promote **contact** between class teachers and their pupils in as many new ways as we can. Already, you can talk to us via telephone, text and emails and we have the school website which holds lots of information and resources. Also, we are exploring new apps which we think will help us. We are particularly interested in ZOOM, Office 365 Teams and possibly using Facebook to create a virtual school and some face to face contact.

If you haven't yet come across Microsoft Teams, it is really an excellent tool to allow members of your friends, family and colleagues to see and talk to each other to ease the sense of isolation. You download it through Office 365.

**Plans for the coming weeks:** We are still finalising plans, but we think that we will remain open over the Easter holidays in the 'virtual' sense (building will be closed). Teachers will have ensured that there is plenty for you to do with your child over the break and they will try to keep in email contact with you, if you need this during the fortnight. In the second week of the holidays, I will be in contact with parents of key workers and other vulnerable children (who have social workers) to find out what you need from us from the start of term. If you want to get in contact with me to alert me to your needs, then please email:

[a.carter@longwill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:a.carter@longwill.bham.sch.uk). Alternatively, please text school asking me to get in touch.

People have spoken that the COVID19 pandemic should be seen as a 'marathon and not a sprint'. We all need to pace ourselves, be kind to ourselves and help each other work out how best to manage this unprecedented situation. I and all the staff at Longwill are very proud of all of your children and we are working hard to continue to support them (and you) to the best of our ability. We wish you all well and will be in touch again soon.



Alison Carter  
Headteacher