

Long Meadow School
Monday 08 March 2021 re-opening
Parent FAQs

Where do I take my child in the mornings?

All children and parents will enter through the staff car park gates. You will then need to follow the one way system around the school to either find the classroom/cloakroom door of their class or the cloakroom door for their class (see attached sheet as to who goes where). This is to ensure that we reduce the numbers of children at entrances and exits. Please adhere to 2m social distancing at all times. If there are people in front of you, please ensure you keep your distance, there is no rush.. Please do not stop at any point to chat with other parents as this will cause a queue and will not allow safe social distancing.

What time do I drop my child off?

To ensure safe social distancing, we have staggered the start and finish times. The site is closed to parents until their drop off allocated time slot. Please wait for the numbered card with your child's year group on it to be raised before entering, There is to be no stopping, congregating and socialising on or around the school site please. If you have children in different year groups, please drop off all your children at the earliest slot you have been allocated. This also applies to the times to pick up your children. ***PLEASE ONLY ARRIVE FOR YOUR ALLOCATED SLOT.***

What if my child resists going in?

Unfortunately, staff can only verbally encourage your child to come in. If your child does find it difficult please move away from the entrance to comfort your child and once they have a gap, then staff will be able to verbally support you. Please just move away from the entrance, there is no need to complete another lap of the school (unless you want to)

Can I go into the classroom or speak to the teacher?

No, unfortunately this is not possible whilst we are under these conditions. Parents are not allowed into the school building without an appointment. If you wish to leave a message for the teacher, please do this through the school office.

Where do I pick my child up?

The same routine will apply to pick up as drop off. Please use the one way system. Your children should be ready for you to collect and exit immediately. Please ensure conversations with your child are in the one way system or once you are off the school site. Some pickups will need to be a quicker 'pick up and go'. At some points we may require you to use social distancing on the playground whilst you wait for your child. Staff will be on hand to support you.

What does my child need to wear?

Full school uniforms should be worn at school. This includes school shoes. However, if your child has outgrown their shoes, and due to not being able to get them refitted, please send them with appropriate footwear until you can. Any patterns shaved into the children's hair should be grown out, hair should not be dyed and we are asking for all long hair to be tied back. This reduces the amount of time children are touching their faces. There is no need to change your usual pattern of washing the uniform.

Can my child bring in healthy snacks and drinks?

Your child can bring in a healthy snack etc as they did before we shut. There is no change here.

Will my child be tested at school for COVID 19

We are taking part in the asymptomatic testing programme. Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify adults who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. Those who test positive will self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus and keeping other pupils in face-to-face education. Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged. Primary aged pupils do not need to be regularly tested. However, staff will be taking part in the asymptomatic testing programme to help reduce transmission of the virus and keep everyone safe. Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices.

What if my child hurts themselves during the day?

If your child hurts themselves and requires basic first aid, this will be dealt within the 'consistent group' itself. Staff may choose to wear PPE for this to allow them to support your child in the best way. If your child requires more than basic first aid, they will be dealt with by a trained adult who will require PPE due to them being outside of the child's consistent group. You will then receive a text to say they have received first aid, as we will not be sending slips home.

Does my child need to wear a mask?

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as children and staff are only mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. If children arrive in masks they will be instructed not to touch the front of their face when removing them. They must remove their mask before entering the building. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin (to be provided) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them. They are not to be worn during the day at school. **All adults must wear a face covering when on the school site.**

Do they need to bring in their own pencil case and equipment?

Children at LMS will be provided with the equipment they need. Other equipment can be shared within a consistent group. Any equipment that may be shared between consistent groups will be cleaned thoroughly before being used between different groups. This includes PE equipment.

Will they be playing with toys/ books?

Yes, but as before, only within their consistent groups. Books will be available within their group. Again, to start with the whole school library will be closed. Toys used to support education in year groups will be used but only within consistent groups. Books etc can now go home with children and come back into school.

Are staff allowed to comfort children if they are sad or hurt?

We will be practising social distancing as much as we possibly can, but parents must recognise that this is not always possible and this is reflected in the government guidance. Parents must also respect the decisions of staff who do not wish to break social distancing and that we have loved ones and families at home also. However the safeguarding of children will **ALWAYS** be our first priority, even above social distancing.

What happens if they need the toilet?

Children will be able to go to the toilet as frequently as they need. They will however be encouraged to go at key times and will go on their own. Toilets will be shared by consistent groups, and children will not be in the toilets at the same time as other consistent groups. Toilet flushes, door handles and taps etc will continue to be cleaned hourly by site staff.

Will they be playing on the outside equipment?

Yes. We will be reopening the equipment during the day. Before and after use, children will be washing their hands and site staff will disinfect the equipment after the break and lunch period. **Play equipment MUST NOT be used or touched before or after school in any way**

Will they be washing their hands regularly/using antibac?

Yes. As a school we have identified key wash points throughout the day as a minimum. This is the minimum we require. However, children will be encouraged to wash them regularly and antibac foam will be available for classrooms. Children can also bring in hand cream for their own use (not to be shared) to counteract the dryness that occurs from this, if parents so wish.

How will the school get pupils to remain 1m+ from each other?

As we have stated from the very start, everything we do will be to reduce any risk. Measures in place to keep children apart include;

- Consistent groupings across the school
- Desks all facing forward in the classroom, so children will be sitting side on to each other (where practical)
- Carpet spaces which face forward where possible
- Staggered start, finish, break and lunchtimes
- Constant positive reminders of social distancing

However, we cannot guarantee that the 1m+ distance will happen all day everyday, due to the nature of children being children, particularly with EYFS.

If children forget to socially distance at school will they be told off?

No, children will be reminded positively about social distancing if they forget. However, the parents of children who do not follow instructions and break socially distancing guidelines frequently on purpose, may receive a phone call from a senior member of staff to discuss the behaviour and agree a way forward.

Will the schools be allowed to close if there is an outbreak of the virus or staff or children need to self-isolate?

Our School will continue to:

- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school, in line with current public health guidance and minimise contact with anyone who is required to self-isolate – your child should not attend if they have developed one or more symptoms or tested positive, and your child may be asked to self-isolate from the day of contact with an individual who tested positive and the next 10 full days if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
- ensure that everyone cleans their hands thoroughly more often than usual, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating - this will be done for 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- enhance cleaning and ventilation, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often

We will minimise contact and encourage maintaining distance as far as possible. It will be different for each school.. This will involve asking children and young people to:

- stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles)
- maintain distance between individuals We know that younger school children and those with special educational needs (SEND) may not be able to maintain social distancing. It is likely that for those children the emphasis will be on separating groups. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.

We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended our school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact our local health protection team if we:

- have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days
- see an overall rise in child or staff absence rates where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected

The local health protection team will advise what action is required. Closure will not usually be necessary, but some groups may need to self-isolate.

Actions you should take

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- someone in their household is showing symptoms
- someone in their support bubble has symptoms and they have been in close contact with them since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started
- they or someone in their household has tested positive for coronavirus (Covid 19)
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area

Arrange a test if you or your child develop symptoms. Inform us of the results. If the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. Other household members (including any siblings) should self-isolate from the day your child's symptoms started (or the day they took a test if they did not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

If your child or someone in your household has tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develops symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

If your child displays symptoms whilst at school they will need to be collected by a member of their family or household.

Your child does **not need** a test if they:

- have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell, but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste
- are advised to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), for example, another pupil in their class, but are not showing symptoms themselves

Please help us to create the safest possible environments by following this advice and the wider public health advice and guidance

Will parents receive fines if they do not send their child to school because they feel it is too risky?

From 8 March all children and students should return to school and attendance will be mandatory once again from this date. Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly if they are registered at one. Local authorities and schools have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance if a child or young person misses school without a valid reason.

We know some parents will be feeling anxious about their children returning to school. If you have concerns about your child attending school, you should discuss these with us. We will be able to explain ways we are changing things to reduce risks.

How will social distancing work with children who need one-to-one support?

If children usually have 1:1 support, we will continue to provide this. At some points, depending on the nature of the 1:1, staff may wear some items of PPE. Staff will also work with children from the side to support them the majority of time. If there are individual differences, this will be discussed directly with specific parents

Will school still make learning available to children if parents keep their children at home?

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a national/local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we will try to offer immediate remote education through Google Classroom. This will not be provided for children who are off school for any other reason or for those children who have tested positive.

Is the school office still open?

Yes the school office will be open, but Parents will not be able to have face to face contact without an appointment. Parents should use the office email address or phone if they need to. If parents need to drop things off, they can do this by leaving them on the designated table in the school foyer, office staff can then communicate with parents through the intercom. The Emergency@email will now not be monitored from the 8th March

Will they have access to computers?

The ICT suite and put banks of ipads are available to be booked and used by consistent groups weekly. This ensures that only one group has access/use the equipment and can be cleaned and left for a sustained period between groups. This means ICT may be taught intensively for a period and not so much before or after this.

Will school provision be as normal?

- For a minimum of the three weeks leading up to Easter, we will not be running any after school clubs.
- PE will be taught with social distancing at all times and the children should come into school in the full LMS PE kit on the days they have PE. You will be informed of what days these are.
- Home learning will continue- with a larger focus on the use of Google Classroom for this.
- The current guidance states that Education trips and visits should not currently take place.
- Assemblies will be within consistent groups using Google classroom to run them centrally. We hope that Long Meadow Legends will continue as part of this over the coming weeks.