

# LONGFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Dear Parent/Carer,

## Update on Returning to School

Firstly, Thank you for the continued hard work you are all putting in at home. I can only imagine how hard it must be juggling work life with home schooling, let alone grabbing the odd moment to try and take a break. I am sure you are doing a great job and the reports I get back from teaching staff only confirm those thoughts.

As you will know, we have been open throughout this difficult time – initially for key worker groups and then for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. At the start of 'lockdown' there was a core group of staff working in school, others from home and some doing a mixture of the two. We have now reached the stage where 95% of our staff are in school.

Last week's announcement that all children would not be returning to school before the summer would not have been a popular one, but under the current social distancing guidelines, most schools would never have had the staff or physical space to facilitate this. Schools have however been encouraged to accept more children back if they have the capacity.

Our current situation is that we have 5 'Key Worker' groups and then 13 other small groups accommodating Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We have also now taken the decision to offer the Year 5s the opportunity to return to school for a short period of time before the summer. I know this is exceptionally hard for those Year Groups who have not been offered a chance to return, but we only have a set number of staff and a finite amount of space. Much of our rationale relates to the period of time a pupil has left in Primary. There will of course be an argument for all of our children to return.

For those of you who are unable to return to school and the many of you who have chosen not to send your children back, please continue to use the materials provided on the website and to ask for support via email from your class teacher. We will try to respond as soon as we can but almost all teaching staff are now in school teaching full-time and are trying to juggle home-school support and in-class teaching. We will continue with Our Microsoft Teams support as a means to some face to face (or screen to screen) contact.

In terms of what happens in the medium-term and long-term future, we are wholly dependent on the decisions that the Government make. You might conceivably think that we know a little bit more about what might happen, but I can assure you that the moment you hear something on the news is the very moment that we do.

I know you will have many questions about arrangements for the rest of the term and the beginning of the next academic year. Over the next couple of weeks we will send out various communications in regards to specific areas of school life, including reports, on-going assessment and class groupings.

School is currently very different for everyone and I cannot wait to get back to some sort of normality. I hope that that will be in September and I'm sure you share my hopes. Please keep up the great work you are all doing. We will get through this; we will pick up the pieces that we need to; repair any holes and we will look forward to all being together and learning together soon, I hope.

Thankyou as always for your continued support

Mr Hollidge

