



.....putting Every Child Matters into Action

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Coronavirus updates

Dear parents and carers,

With the very rapidly changing landscape I wanted to update you all with information relating to schools generally and actions we are taking within Longwell Green specifically.

Schools are now updated daily with information, most of which has stayed the same since the initial information sharing. We continue to follow Public Health England, DfE and Mr Johnson’s advice which as we all know continues to be hygiene and vigilance. We honestly have not been told any more about possible closures than is reported in the media and of course we will tell you as soon as we can if this changes. We attended a meeting last night with South Glos Director of Public Health and the Emergency Planning and Health Protection team as well as Key staff from Education Local Authority where the information continues to be the same.

What are we doing in school already?

Since the initial concerns we have had an increased focus on hygiene with all pupils. We have also had an increased vigilance for the signs and symptoms of the virus in our pupils, staff and those we come into contact with (such as delivery drivers, parent visitors etc.) We have an effective and robust daily cleaning schedule which follows the most up to date advice regarding coronavirus. It is worth noting that we have not had any confirmed cases and had no need to isolate or send anyone home suspected to have the virus.

We have an established plan of action if someone is suspected on site of having the virus again following the most up to date advice.

What next?

Our ongoing hygiene routines will be bolstered with an additional rota of deep cleans within school (the type usually undertaken in school holidays).

Following Boris Johnson’s most recent call to avoid non-essential contact and to stop all unnecessary travel we will need to make some changes.

Using the thrust of Mr Johnson’s advice, school will be using the following framework to inform decisions.

As schools are to remain open, then we will work our utmost to continue to deliver the rich and full curriculum for each child. The advice for adults in a non-school setting is to avoid non-essential contact and unnecessary travel. As such, we will be looking to stop all adult gatherings as best we can.

This will mean for example that the **Mothers’ Day event** (Friday 20th) due to be held after school on Friday will now be held during the school day. All pupils who have a ticket will be able to choose their gift within the school day and take it home at the end of the day, meaning that pupils do not miss out, but adults are not gathered in one place.

Similarly, we will need to cancel the **RE /Art event** (Wednesday 18th) due to be held after school tomorrow, as it again would involve large numbers of adults gathered on site. Pupils will have a chance to view the work of others through tomorrow however.

Non-essential contact and unnecessary travel

More broadly, as of today:

- We are postponing any non-urgent meetings between staff and parents, please continue to use all of the other communication methods available that are not face to face where possible – email, telephone, dojo. Thank you.
- We are no longer holding meetings with staff from other agencies other than urgent meetings or those connected to child protection.
- Staff will not be attending any external training events or events lead by external providers for the short term and many providers have already cancelled training with us this morning as I write this letter.
- We are cancelling all sporting / other fixtures with other schools.



- The disco will be postponed, we will inform you of a date where this will be held and all pupils who were due to attend will be able to attend the future date.
- We are requesting that parent helpers who work in classes do not come into school from tomorrow 18th March until further notice.
- We will not be planning or booking any trips or visits in the near future.

Self isolation

The most up to date advice is that if your child or anyone within your household (as of yet, not extended family) show symptoms, the entire household is advised to isolate for 14 days. The symptoms are a new and persistent cough and / or a temperature.

If this is the case, please inform school immediately and your child/ren must not return before the 14 day time period, to help protect the school and the wider community.

School closure

As started above, we have been asked to continue to operate as normal until told otherwise. We have no information regarding notice likely to be given for any school closures or any indication of duration or even the nature of the closure. However, please note that the only way Longwell Green will close is if we are directly told to close (either nationally or through a localised outbreak), or if we have too few staff available to continue to provide a safe environment for your children, remembering that the 14 day isolation period applies to school staff as well.

However, we see our actions at this time as a moral duty to support our pupils, our community and the country at large. We are aware of the impact of closing the school and this will absolutely be a last resort, we want you to continue to work, we want NHS and emergency services to continue to provide all that they do and we want to support everyone in continuing as best we can, life as normal, while ensuring the safety of everyone we look after and have contact with.

If the matter is taken out of our hands, we will contact you with as much notice as we can to let you know more details, which will include some element of school work at home.

You can tell that this is an unprecedented situation and I know you all are working just as we are to do the best for everyone around you. I hope you will agree that the response from us here at Longwell Green is balanced and appropriate, and we will continue to review the situation, keeping you up to date with any changes as soon as we are able.

I thank you in advance for your support in this matter and if school is able to support the community in any way, please let us know and we will try our very best.

As part of this we would like to signpost families and in turn ask you to signpost people you may know to foodbanks if needed. This has the potential to be a very tricky time for some people we will know in our communities and if we and you can help, this would be great. It has been reported in the media that such support networks are under enormous strain at this moment in time, so if you are able to drop off one extra tin in the foodbank collection box in your local supermarket, or offer your time to help, please do.

Useful links:

Food Support: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

Feeding Britain <https://feedingbritain.org/>

Mangotsfield, BS16 9BP <https://www.resoundbristol.co.uk/foodbank>

Foodbank, Thornbury <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Food-Bank-Thornbury2-2016.pdf>

Foodbank, Yate and Chipping Sodbury <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Food-Bank-Yate-CSodbury3-2016.pdf>

Foodbank, Downend <https://www.resoundbristol.co.uk/foodbank>

North Bristol Food Bank (St Chad's church) <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Darren Brown and the entire Longwell Green Team.