



.....putting Every Child Matters into Action

South Gloucestershire Council  
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Headteacher: Mr D Brown

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

### School Covid updates.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement on Saturday 31st October I am sure that everyone will be aware of the upcoming national lockdown for England, starting on this coming Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November and due to last for one month. This guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november> discusses information on the new national restrictions, including what they mean for working from home and business closures, why they are being introduced and the financial support available.

#### What does this mean for schools?

At present, the guidance continues to be the same as it was for the re-start in September. It is possible that the DfE and Government may wish to add clarity to their current guidance as time goes on. If this happens, as we have done all the way through, we will update you as soon as it is practically possible. However, the systems we have in place have been highly effective, even when responding to a bubble closure and we continue to have success in limiting the spread of the virus within Longwell Green setting.

#### As a family, how can I help?

It is likely that other people will encounter the virus and the impact of the lockdown will be more successful if it is correctly followed. From a school perspective, we ask that you:

- 1/ continue to support the **staggered start and end** of the day. We would like not to revert to the old, longer start and drop off, but we need your help to make sure we don't have to – please see points below on how you can do this.
- 2/ Please **avoid loitering**. Once you have dropped your child off, please leave the area. Please do not arrive too early again, to **avoid gatherings**. From Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November you can *“visit outdoor public places with the people you live with, your support bubble, or 1 person from another household.”* This includes outside the school gates. See the above link for more details.
- 3/ If you have to arrive early or not leave immediately, please **make use of space**. We have asked that if you need to wait, you make use of the green opposite as well as the grass areas and car park in school grounds – but please **do not block the paths** for others and leave as soon as you have finished your interaction with school.
- 4/ **You may wish to wear a mask** while dropping off and picking up, even though it is outside. You will not be asked to enter school unless it is absolutely necessary but if you do, we have strict protocols that we will ask you to follow.
- 5/ Please **stay at home** unless you cannot avoid it. Having both parents drop off in the morning for example just adds to the numbers outside school gates and is not needed.
- 6/ What we are really saying is **please socially distance** (as well as remember ‘Hands. Face. Space’)
- 7/ **Avoid situations that are going to increase the chance** of you or your child/ren catching the virus and potentially bringing it into school.

#### Mud!

We continue to work to have the space to provide all children to have a socially / bubble distanced play and lunchtime. To keep the spaces as large as possible for children, we opted to make use of the field. This is why pupils have brought wellies into school *and we ask that they continue to do so*. We had hoped not to need to shrink the spaces available (we need to have at least 5 to make the rotas work) but given the mud today, we simply have no choice otherwise children are not always going to get an outdoor playtime. Please remember that





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we ask them to sit in their tables and not cross contaminate within a lesson. We then have to ask most classes to eat their lunch in their classrooms (more time in the classroom) and lastly, within an hour for lunch children have 20 minutes to eat (longer if needed), 20 minutes to go outside and 20 minutes where they have to have their lunchtime inside the classroom and not move about too much while doing so – this last one is really tricky.

Getting children outside and airing the rooms is important, as is simply getting outside and running about. As I said, we had hoped that the field would not turn so muddy in one day, it was fine this morning and no-longer usable now!

From tomorrow onward, we will divide the playground to make 5 spaces within it. If this does not work, the only other feasible option is to have playtimes and lunchtimes happening almost all of the time across the day, with some children eating very early in the day and some late, to further stagger the strain on the playground. We want to avoid this for obvious reasons. So, we are really sorry if your child came home with mud on them today, they should not tomorrow. Can you also please speak to them about why we are shrinking the spaces on the playground and the teachers will do the same tomorrow? Thank you.

#### Food parcels.

Longwell Green School was proud to be a local food parcel hub for our area over the half term. Credit the many facets of South Glos Council who worked to provide a Food Parcel Offer (containing dried goods only and non-perishables) and we were the hub for our local area. This aimed to support those eligible for Pupil Premium. Please be aware that we have a very small number left and we would like them to go to those who most need them. If this is you, or someone you know (they do not need to attend our school) please contact school. Once they are gone, they are gone. We have already been contacted today by a number of families from other schools and I think it important that the message gets out that we have a small number left but please advise that people should ring before arriving at school to avoid disappointment.

We will add any further information as time goes on. Other useful links are:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak> *Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges.*

<https://www.supportiveparents.org.uk/resources/workshop-recordings/> *Supportive parents' website, this link is about applying for secondary school, but there are lots on their website that is worth knowing.*

As always, if there is something that you are worried about, unsure about, need some advice, or if there is something that maybe important for us to know about your family, please contact us through the main office (see above) or via class dojo. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We will update you as soon as there is more to share.

Kind regards,  
D Brown.

