

Longfield Road,
Darlington,
DL3 0HT
Tel: 01325 380815 / 380816

E-mail: enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk
Website: www.longfield.uk.com
Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH
Head of School: Mr N Lindsay, BA (Hons), NPQH

20th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (0141-19NLI)

School Closure

As you are aware, the Government has announced that schools will close on Friday 20th March with the exception of children whose parents / carers have been identified as Key Workers or for children identified as a vulnerable group. We have contacted you this morning via ParentMail if you may fall into this category and if you are eligible to take up this offer. All the information is posted on the school website.

Key Workers Guidance:

The government has asked parents / carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend**.

- If pupils can stay safely at home, **then they should do this**.
- If both parents / carers are Key Workers or you are a single parent / carer who is a Key Worker, in exceptional circumstances you need to contact the school if you are intending to send your child to school.
- **If you are intending to send your child to school on Monday 23rd March 2020, please ring or TEXT (preferred) Mrs P Rutter on 07825 421 132.**

Please TEXT:

- Childs Name
- Year Group
- Will they require a school grab bag for lunch?
- Occupation of Key Worker(s) for adults within the household

This will be the procedure every day, from 9:00am – 3:00pm, if you need to send your child to school the following day.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons we must be aware of the children that we are expecting to attend school on a daily basis; therefore, if you have informed us that your child will be attending school we will treat their attendance as we would if they were attending school on a “normal school day”, so they will be subject to a morning and afternoon registration and we will call you if your child is absent as we would on a “normal school day”.



Important Information:

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles from the Department of Education:

1. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent / carer who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
2. Parents / carers should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
3. Parents / carers should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
4. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

Children Working in School

Rules and uniform are as normal. During the school day we will try to stick as closely as possible to our normal curriculum offer, dependant on pupil and staff numbers. No school trips / excursions / visitors into school will take place until further notice.

Free School Meals

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide a Free School Meal for pupils who are absent or if the school is closed. However, given the current unprecedented circumstances, we will (staffing levels permitting) continue to provide support to these pupils by providing a "Grab Bag" lunch on a daily basis.

If your child is receipt of Free School Meals and you would like to collect a "Grab Bag" please text Mandy Payne on 07825 401199 stating "Grab Bag" with your child's name and school year. Please inform us of your decision by no later than 9.00am on the day that you wish to collect the Grab Bag; once we have received your request we will inform you of how we will facilitate this process.

Further guidance can be found by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

Year 11 GCSEs and Vocational Qualifications

As you are aware, the Government have made an initial announcement regarding GCSE & A Level examinations and they have stated that they will providing us with the "detail" today; however, at the time of writing this letter we have as yet not received it, but we could not delay writing to you as there is a lot of information within this correspondence that we needed to send to you at our earliest possible opportunity. As you can imagine, we are as keen as you to see what this is and rest assured as soon as we receive it we will forward it to you; as I have stated the "detail" is what is key and we want to ensure that all of our pupils receive the grades they deserve for the work that they have put in.

In addition, what would normally be a day of celebration and a 'rites of passage' for Year 11 pupils to allow them to celebrate the end of their formal education and time with us has had to be put on hold. At this stage we have no idea how long school may be closed for but I have reassured all of Year 11 that we will not forget about them! Whilst I cannot say what a potential celebration might be or when it will be held at the moment, we will be organising an event of some kind to celebrate our 'Class of 2020'.

Years 7 to 10 School Work

All pupils have had work uploaded on to Microsoft Teams for all of their lessons. Pupils have received assemblies, class tutorials and have been given a guided handout of how to access and use Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a safe way for all pupils to communicate with their teachers using their school email address only.

Pupils may email questions and completed work to their teachers using their school email address for feedback. Pupils must be mindful that teachers may be looking after their own loved ones at home so may not be able to reply immediately.

If any pupil runs out of work, they can post onto Teams or email their teacher asking for more. Paper-work based packs have been created and disrupted to the pupils without internet access at home as well as exercise books to work in.

I strongly advise all pupils read for at least 20 minutes a day to keep developing their vocabulary.

Extra resources available

Twinkl is offering every teacher in England access to all Twinkl resources with a One Month Ultimate Membership, totally free of charge. They're also extending this to every parent / carer in schools so pupils can still have access to high-quality learning during any periods of disruption. Setting this up is really easy to do - go to

www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS

Summer Uniform

Longfield Academy pupils are due to return in Summer Uniform when the government provides further clarification on pupils returning to school. When we return, we will operate a 'grace period' whereby it is still permissible to wear our Winter Uniform should parents / carers have been unable to obtain Longfield Polo Shirts during these exceptional circumstances. Please endeavour to get ready for Summer Uniform by contacting Elizabeth's Embroidery as soon as possible using the details below:

Elizabeth's Embroidery T: (01642) 674973 or visit their on-line shop

www.elizabethsembroidery.co.uk

Password: longfieldee

How will the school communicate during closure periods?

We will provide updates via email, Facebook and on the school website as the situation changes. If you need to contact the school please email enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

What about any key events that are missed?

We will review revised dates or permanent cancellation of trips and school events including end of year events that are missed due to closure and will let you know about new arrangements once a reopening date is confirmed.

Requirement to attend meetings (Safeguarding / Statutory or Other)

Mrs Payne will inform individuals whether they are required or able to attend any relevant meetings as we receive government advice. Mrs Payne will attend meetings on behalf of others where allowed.

Pupil Illness

If a pupils has symptoms of the virus, please call Mandy Payne on 07825 401199 or email apayne@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Well-Being

Follow the guidelines on the news from reputable sources: the NHS, BBC and World Health Organisation.

Support Services / Signposting Information

A welfare group has been set up on Teams, please email Miss Prince if you would like to be added to it; nprince@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Below are some further details for support services:



ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline – online counselling and advice on every possible worry you could face. Helpful videos, activities and coping strategies. Accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop. <https://www.childline.org.uk/>



Kooth -online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and is free to children and young people living in Darlington. www.kooth.com



Darlington Mind - Offer a range of support including counselling, one to one support, self-harm, mental wellbeing, emotional resilience workshops for pupils and support to staff.

Contact **01325 283169** contactus@darlingtonmind.co.uk



Growing Healthy Darlington 5-19 Service – School Nurse attached to each school on hand to provide advice and support based on the needs of the pupils. Call **03000 030013**



Papyrus - **HOPELineUK** is a specialist telephone service staffed by trained professionals who give non-judgemental support, practical advice and information to Children, teenagers and young people who are worried about how they are feeling. Call: **0800 068 41 41** Website: www.papyrus-uk.org



The Samaritans are available 24 hours a day Call: 116 123 and can be an invaluable point of contact in the small hours when other help lines are often closed. Website: www.samaritans.org



Child Bereavement Support UK offers support to UK families when a child of any age dies or when a child is facing a bereavement. Visit www.childbereavementuk.org or call **0800 02 888 40**



YoungMinds provides advice on how to seek help for yourself or a child in your care. There are also comprehensive guides to national services including a guide to Children and Adolescence Mental Health Services (CAMHS). www.youngminds.org.uk



Breathe

Mindfulness app to help with everything from stress to sleep. It allows you to check in with your emotions and recommends short guided meditations. Free to download.



Headspace

Mindfulness app to help with everything from stress to sleep. It allows you to check in with your emotions and recommends short guided meditations. Free to download.

If any pupil is at risk of severe self-harm which could endanger life the CRISIS team is available to help on **0191 4415733**

Longfield's Designated Safeguarding Lead mobile phone number is 07825 401199, and is available 8.30am - 5.00pm.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Lindsay'.

Nicholas Lindsay
Head of School