

27 March 2020

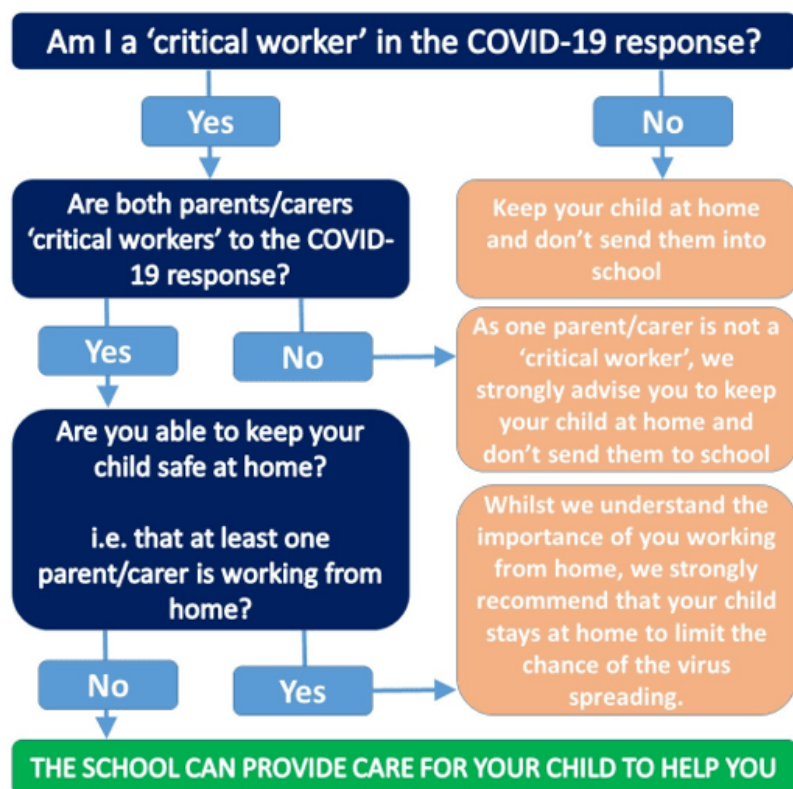
Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update

School Closure

As you are aware the Government announced that schools would close from Friday 20th March for the vast majority of students and has **“asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend”**. Schools were asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable (those children designated as a Child in Need, subject to Child Protection Order, Looked After Children, young carers, children with disabilities or children who have an Educational Health Care Plan) and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. The full information about which parents/carers this would apply to can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The flow chart to the right provides an ‘at a glance’ guide as to whether your child should still be attending school:



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

The latest guidance for supporting vulnerable students can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people?utm_source=62ad7c10-fa33-4187-972d-85e99181e619&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

For those students who do need to attend school and the staff who are in the building supporting them, strict social distancing rules are being applied according to the guidelines which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings?utm_source=380d162d-e45d-4e57-b5f6-95cfafce29a9&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Since schools closed further guidance has been issued regarding protecting the people in society who are most likely to be susceptible to Covid-19 and the most up to date information on the shielding process can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf

How to stick together, by staying apart

Please remember that currently **everyone** needs to follow the government guidelines regarding social distancing:



Stay at home
no unnecessary journeys
or social contact



Only leave home for
essential shopping
or **medical needs**



Or **exercise once a day**



Or **travelling to work** if
absolutely necessary



Public gatherings of
more than two people are banned -
excluding people you live with



Police may be able to fine you
if you don't follow the rules

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As a school we want to help all families that require our support; therefore once you have read the information in this letter and you would like your child to attend school can you please **ring or TEXT (preferred) Pip Rutter on 07825421132. Please TEXT:**

- **Child's Name**
- **Year Group**
- **Occupation of Key Worker**
- **Will they require a school grab bag for lunch?**

Please ensure that you have informed Pip by **no later than 3.30pm on the previous day if your child is attending school the next day** e.g. Monday for a Tuesday, Tuesday for a Wednesday etc.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons we must be aware of the children that we are expecting to attend the 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", therefore 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". We will be operating normal school rules during your child's time in school however they will not be expected to wear their school uniform. The school canteen is also being staffed during the period of closure so food will be available for your child however please be aware that this will be limited to cold food only.

Free School Meals

If you're entitled to Free School Meals, please remind yourself of the Free School Meal update letter that was sent out on 24th March 2020 and can be found at the below link:
<https://swiftacademies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LFA-FSM-24March.pdf>

Pupil illness

If a pupil has symptoms of the virus, please call Mandy Payne on 07825401199 or email apayne@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Year 11 GCSE's and Vocational Qualifications

If your child is in Year 11 we are fully aware that this is a very unsettling time for them as they wait to hear how they will be awarded grades this summer for the subjects they have been studying. We do not have full details of this yet, however, the latest update from Ofqual (the exams regulator) has stated that we will have further information on this before the Easter holiday:



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https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams?utm_source=91e25046-3bdd-4097-ac38-f3c99fec0735&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Please remind yourself with the Year 11 letter we sent out on 20th March 2020, this can be found following the below link:

<https://swiftacademies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/0144-19NLI-DfE-Update-re-GCSE-Exam-Series-Summer-2020.pdf>

Years 7 to 10 School Work

As outlined to you in our letter dated 20th March the school is providing work for students in Years 7 to 10 via Microsoft Teams which can be accessed via their school e-mail account. Whilst there have been some technical issues with this this week due to the high volume of demand from schools across the country, the vast majority of students have been able to access their work and have taken full advantage of the opportunity to contact their teachers for support. If your child is experiencing technical difficulties with accessing their account, then please contact enquires@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk and we will endeavour to assist you where we can.

If all else fails and your child is unable to access the work that has been set, please email enquires@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk, **state your full name and year group and ask for a 'work pack' to be posted to you.** Further free online resources can be found on Twinkl, setting this up is really easy to do - go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS

Please remind your child that 20 minutes of reading a day is required.

How will the school communicate during closure periods?

We will provide updates via email, Facebook and on the school website as the situation changes.

I am pleased to report that Longfield has joined Secondary Schools and Colleges across the town in donating Personal Protective Equipment to Darlington Memorial Hospital; we are more than willing to support our fantastic NHS during this time.



Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School

