

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

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

06 July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Coronavirus Update – 06.07.2020 (0168-19NLI)

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

You will have seen that DfE Guidance for schools reopening was issued on Thursday 2nd July 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming all pupils to Longfield Academy [from Wednesday 2nd September 2020](#). This involves significant logistical planning with a number of stakeholders and all schools will have slightly differing approaches to cater for the needs of their families and accounting for the geographical considerations of their school sites. I will write to you in due course about the exact composition of the Longfield Academy arrangements.

What are we doing to support your child's learning?

The past two letters have given you a brief insight into some of the many areas we are developing to support your child's learning, please find a summary of the bullet points below:

- Extension of Remote Learning
- Recovery Curriculum
- Retrieval Strategies
- Homework
- We Are Longfield Curriculum
- Learning Journeys
- Learning Tracks
- Curriculum area of the website

But most importantly, what are we doing to support your child's welfare? This letter will give you an insight into just that.

Supporting your child's welfare

During this time, we have been working to support Longfield's pupils and their families, here is just a snapshot of what we have been offering:

- Household parcels of home essentials and personal hygiene products
- Early Help referrals continued in order to get the right targeted support for family needs
- Liaising with other organisations to support different aspects of our families' requirements
- Loan laptops and routers (government scheme)
- An extensive KS2/3 transition offer including a new website area with booklets, short film clips, tours and information you need to know when starting Longfield
- Calls made to support pupils with their work
- Support and signposting for parents / carers' own mental health



- Support for English as an Additional Language pupils home visits and translation of documents
- Phone calls and socially distanced visits to support and see if pupils and their families need any further help
- MIND, Psychological Welfare Practitioner, CAMHs, School Counsellor and Mental Health lead telephone, virtual and doorstep visit sessions
- Virtual assemblies
- Head of Year Messages and Pupil Challenges
- Careers advice
- Year 10 Mentor Meetings (virtual and face-to-face option)
- Booklet to support pupils with additional learning needs in preparation for their return to school
- Extensive preparation to ensure pupils feel safe and supported in readiness for return
- Further information on where to find support for a range of issues on our Teams wellbeing page and school website
- New welfare website area coming soon

The SEN team feels that the return to school may be especially challenging for some pupils with specific needs. We are working to provide a resource document in response to this to help to prepare the pupils for the changes in the organisation of school and the structure of the day as well as to remind them of some familiar practices that they enjoyed before the lockdown began. This will be distributed to pupils that we feel may find this particularly useful but if you specifically feel that your child requires this please feel free to contact us.

Please don't hesitate to contact school if you feel you would benefit from further support or advice; we're happy to help.

Welfare Questionnaire

We are encouraging all pupils to complete the short questionnaire, which can be found in a link on their Year Group Teams page. The purpose of this questionnaire is to help us plan the best possible way to support our pupils on their return. We would very much appreciate your help in ensuring this is **completed by Friday 17th July 2020**.

We Are Longfield Curriculum

We've taken hints, tips and advice from a range of mental health professionals and health practitioners. Using their knowledge, we are putting together a package of lessons that will be taught over the first half term (in the We Are Longfield lessons), which will acknowledge and answer some of the concerns pupils have, equip pupils with some proven techniques to build their own wellbeing and also look forward to building a positive future.

KS2 - KS3 Transition

If you have a child joining us in September, we understand this will have been a very different experience for you. On our website there is a comprehensive 'virtual' transition package that covers all of the information you will need to get your child ready for September.

For those parents / carers that are eligible for help towards the cost of school uniform, Elizabeth's Embroidery now have details of eligible families. Please contact Elizabeth's Embroidery directly to purchase school uniform.

If you have any other question relating to transition, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Metcalfe, KS2-KS3 Transition Coordinator, via school reception.

Annual Data Collection Form 2021-2022

Towards the end of last week, you will have received by email or by text, a link to the electronic 2021-2022 Data Collection Form. Please ensure you complete this form for each child and submit your answers **by 8:00pm on Friday 10th July 2020**. The completion of this form is vital to ensure

we hold the correct information for your child ready for their return in September 2020. For ease, we have added the form to our website and included the link below should you still need to complete it.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=18AJO4EChUGfbYn0-kTEIvrGBNA_12hOuyfXjAqJxMxUNTkyVFQ2VzdPODRZUUNLNEZaSldNRUY0Uy4u

Uniform

We will remain in Summer Uniform (polo shirts) until November 2020. At this stage, we must prepare for a return in full summer school uniform in September 2020 and we advise all parents / carers to prepare as early as possible for this, as there may be a backlog due to retail establishments only just becoming operational once more.

There is a uniform guide of how to order from Elizabeth's Embroidery on our website:

<https://swiftacademies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Elizabeth-Embroidery-Info.pdf>

School Website

As previously mentioned, all of the above information, as well as the letters we send home during the school closure, are uploaded to our website. I would also like to highlight the SWIFT Coronavirus section; it is an amalgamation of Department for Education, Public Health and various mental health, welfare and educational resources and ideas - as a 'one stop shop' for all things related to COVID education and family welfare: <https://swiftacademies.org.uk/covid19/>

As always, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school via enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk or telephone Reception on 01325 380 815.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

#WeAreLongfield

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School