



Longvernal Primary School

Outdoor Learning Leaders

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"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"

Headteacher: Karen Bazeley

1st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your hard work, support, patience and understanding this year. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school. Apologies for the rather formal list of arrangements outlined below but you will appreciate that it is important that we are as thorough as possible for the safety of all.

Following the most recent set of announcements from the Government regarding the return of children to school, I am writing to you further to the letter you received from the Trust to detail arrangements for Longvernal Primary including Nursery from Monday March 8th.

We shall re-open to all pupils on the 8th March. **Attendance is mandatory** and we expect children to wear full school uniform including sensible black footwear when in school. However, on days on which they will be doing Forest school and PE, children may come to school in their Forest kit/ correct school P.E. kit so they do not need to change.

Class	Forest	P. E.
Holly	Friday	Wednesday
Oak	Thursday	Friday
Chestnut	Thursday	Monday
Maple	Wednesday	Friday
Willow	Friday	Tuesday
Sycamore	Friday	Tuesday

The full school meals service will operate from the 8th March along with Breakfast and After-School Club. Breakfast Club will be available from 7.30am for working parents and After-School Club until 6p.m., again as a childcare facility for working parents. This is to minimise mixing.

The Government has issued guidance on how schools can reduce the risk of virus transmission. This guidance is based on prevention and response to infection and includes measures we have all become accustomed to over recent months. Staff will wear masks when walking around the school site except when directly teaching children and where possible, social distancing will be expected. Clearly, with younger children or those with specific needs, this is very difficult to achieve. Our usual expectations regarding hand sanitising will apply as before. Schools will be required to keep rooms well-ventilated, but as we are beginning to experience some warmer weather, I am hopeful that classrooms will be warmer than they were before Christmas. Unless we

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have another cold spell, it should not ordinarily be necessary for children to wear additional layers. Please do not allow your child to bring in toys or pencil cases - individual stationery will be provided.

We are updating our risk assessment and this will be uploaded to the school website. It will not alter significantly from the one previously published. Cleaning regimes put in place last year will resume to ensure all regularly touched areas are cleaned more frequently than would normally be the case. We will also continue to operate staggered start and finish times along with staggered break times and lunch periods. 'Bubbles' used in school prior to Christmas remain in force to reduce cross-contamination of sub-groups in schools.

Perhaps one of the most significant challenges will be helping children to catch-up. We are planning a catch-up programme to commence shortly after the return of pupils. In the vast majority of cases, children at Longvernal have worked hard and maintained good standards of achievement despite learning remotely. I am very grateful to staff and parents/carers who have worked with children to achieve such strong progress, regardless of the difficulties.

The need to catch up will be carefully balanced with a focus on well-being, classes re-bonding and regaining fitness. The new lodge is to be known as 'The Snug' and will have a well-being focus when school returns. Additional outdoor learning opportunities will be sought alongside frequent bursts of activity. We ask that you support well-being by ensuring that your child gets back into a regular sleep routine and by providing a fruit or vegetable snack and a healthy packed lunch if your child does not have cooked school meals

Drop-off and Pick-Up Arrangements from March 8th:

In order to prevent groups gathering, in line with guidance, there will be no parents on site except with an appointment. In non-Covid times, from January onwards, we try to build independence among our Reception children by altering their morning routine to be more in line with the rest of the school. Therefore we will no longer be opening the Woodpecker Gate to parents.

Start of the day:

Nursery (Acorn): children to be collected by Nursery staff from the **alley gate at 8.45a.m.** We ask that parents do not arrive early so that the path is clear to allow Key Stage 2 children to arrive safely first.

Reception (Holly): children to be collected by members of Holly Class team from the **top car park gate at 8.45a.m.** We ask that parents do not arrive early so that the pavement and entrance is clear to allow Key Stage 1 children to arrive safely first.

Key Stage 1 (Oak and Chestnut): children to enter school from the **top car park gate between 8.30-8.40 a.m.** They will make their way down the path and enter school through the Hall. A member of staff will be on hand to guide them.

Key Stage 2 (Maple, Willow and Sycamore): children to enter school from the **alley gate between 8.30-8.40 a.m.** They will make their way along the path and enter school through Maple door if they are in Maple Class or through Willow Class if they are in Willow Class or Sycamore Class.

End of the day: the gates will be shut and no car pick up or turn around available.

Nursery (Acorn): children to be taken by Nursery to the **alley gate** at your child's usual collection time.

Reception (Holly): children to be taken to the **top car park gate at 3.00 p.m.**

Oak: children to be taken to the **top car park gate at 3.05 p.m.**

Chestnut: children to be taken to the **top car park gate at 3.10 p.m.**

Maple: children to be taken to the **bottom car park gate at 3.05p.m**

Willow: children to be taken to the **bottom car park gate at 3.10p.m**

Sycamore: children make their own way to the **bottom car park gate at 3.15p.m**

We will not be closing the road as we did before. Unfortunately we only had one volunteer from the parent body and it meant that school staff were spending 45 minutes a day basically acting as traffic wardens. We cannot justify this moving forwards and at the end of the day it is a public highway. However we ask that you prioritise safety of all children by, where possible, walking or scooting to school if you live nearby. This will also promote well-being and fitness. Key Stage 1 can store their scooters during the day on the bike rack at

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the front of the school and Key Stage 2 in the scooter pods on the playground. If you do need to drive, we ask that you park a reasonable distance from school and walk when collecting at the end of the day but please **DO NOT PARK ON THE JUNCTION OR DIRECTLY OPPOSITE**. This has resulted in several near misses where cars have reversed towards children or pulled out as children are crossing the road near the top. It is against the Highway Code and we will be reporting breaches to the local police. If you choose to park directly opposite school in Mandy Meadows, we ask that you are prepared to wait in your car until all children and parents have finished walking up the road. For this to be practicable, may I ask that parents do not gather socially to chat at the gates as this means that the pavement is not clear for others to pass safely, social distancing rules are broken and it can result in parents failing to adequately supervise their children. Once we have handed your child over to you, you are responsible for any supervision. Thank you for your support in keeping every child safe.

Lastly, I hope your child has an enjoyable Book Week, with all the planned activities. On Friday March 5th, the final day before full re-opening, teaching staff will not be able to respond to online learning as much as usual as they will be preparing the school for full opening on March 8th which involves many logistics in order to adhere to guidance. However, Google Meets will still happen and please ensure your child logs on for their workshop with The Natural Theatre Company. Their teachers will tell them more next week. Thank you for your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Karen Bazeley
Headteacher

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