



7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents/ carers

### Coronavirus updates

It has not taken long for schools in our area to be affected by the coronavirus. Currently, we do not have any confirmed cases but I know you will agree with me when I say it is a matter of when, rather than if, we will find ourselves in a similar position.

As such, this letter is designed to support you in identifying what to do, how we will inform you and what the current guidance advises.

- We are asking parents/carers of any child who is displaying any signs of illness to seek medical advice. This can be done by ringing 111. Alternatively, there is an online questionnaire which asks questions about symptoms, accounts for locality and guides families as to whether further consultation is needed. This can be found at <https://111.nhs.uk/>
- If a child in school is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, they will be sent home and asked to follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus. This sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test. Please let school know the test results immediately by either phoning the office or emailing [bursar@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk). For all correspondence out of school hours please email [head@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk) and [bursar@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@newlongton.lancs.sch.uk). When awaiting collection, the child will be asked to leave the classroom and stay in our isolated, ventilated area with a designated member of staff. According to the government guidance, *if someone tests negative, [and] if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.*
- If people within a child's social bubble at home receive a positive test result, we ask them to ensure that the child isolates at home in accordance with government guidance and is tested. Please let us know the outcome of the test immediately. If a member of your social bubble receives a positive test result during the day, please contact the school immediately so that we can isolate the child until you collect them. Please arrange a test for your child immediately again letting us know the results.
- Public Health England (PHE) have informed schools that our bubbles of children can remain open unless a child or member of staff from that bubble who has attended school receives a positive result. If this is the case, the PHE team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. The health protection team will work with school in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take and we will ensure that we are in constant contact with parents so as to keep you informed.
- Based on advice from the Public Protection team, we will send all those who have been in close contact with the person home to self-isolate for 14 days. School will provide work and feedback for



these children via Google Classroom. If you have any difficulty in accessing Google Classroom, please let your child's class teacher know so that alternative provision can be arranged.

Please be assured that we will continue to review our systems, ensuring they are robust so that we can keep all those at school as safe as possible. We will remain in close contact with you should the situation change.

Yours faithfully



Mr Maloney  
Headteacher

