



**Long Lane Primary School**  
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 @LL\_Primary

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents who have been in touch following my letter yesterday.

At 11.55pm on Thursday 19th March the Government published details in regard to eligibility to access the childcare schools are being asked to offer for a small group of eligible pupils from Monday 23rd March. Currently there are 30 children on our list.

### **School Guidance**

The school guidance notes that if it is at all possible for children to be at home, they should be. It goes on to give details about what are considered 'critical sectors' – see link below.

**IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD TO BE AT HOME, THEN THEY SHOULD BE.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

### **Parental Guidance**

The parental guidance notes that there is no compulsion for eligible children to attend school. It is at the discretion of the parents. It also notes that a child will be eligible if one or more parent is employed in a 'critical sector'. (see link below).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

*"Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.*

*Please, therefore, follow these key principles:*

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.***

2. *If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.*
3. *Parents 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.*
4. *Parents 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.*
5. *Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.”*

We will be running a very limited staffing on a rota basis, which will be planned around the exact numbers of specific children needed. **We will be contacting those parents today if we have you on our list.** If you have not been contacted by us today you will not be allowed to use the service we are providing.

I am sorry we are needing to be so tough on this but I do feel we have a crucial part to play - we have done a huge amount as schools so far and we will continue to provide this but we have to do it only where it is needed - I am sure you understand and will support this. Other schools in the local area are all following this.

I know this will be disappointing for many of you, who will no doubt be finding childcare a challenge, but we can only offer a small number of places in order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

If you still feel you need the service and are on the government's list and we haven't been in touch please give us a ring by 5.00pm today or send an email to [headteacher@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@longlane.w-berks.sch.uk) as soon as you can.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Please look out for further updates from me and also emails from your classteacher.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Thorne  
Headteacher