



Longstone CE (VA) School,
The Cross,
Great Longstone
DE45 1TZ

Telephone: 01629 640377
www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk
Email: enquiries@longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Dear parents and carers

Advice to parents

I am writing to let you know that a member of our school community has tested positive for COVID-19.

We know that you may find this concerning but we contacted the Department for Education advice line immediately following confirmation of the case and we are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child and keep yourselves and others safe.

The children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus have received a letter informing them that their child must self isolate.

For other pupils, the school remains open as normal with continued measures such as designated bubbles, enhanced cleaning and a rigorous hygiene routine in place throughout the school. Your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

As you know from our previous information, group 'bubbles' within the school are separated within our building and grounds so that they do not come into contact with each other throughout the day. Social, protective bubbles are a way of enabling us to isolate and reduce virus transmission if a case is identified at any time. The 'bubbles' are recommended by the Department for Education and Public Health England and are part of the measures currently in place.

Again, I would like to reinforce that all the advice from Public Health England has been followed and we will continue to do so in the future. The health and safety of all of our children, staff and our school community is our utmost priority.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) symptoms and what to do if you're unwell

Do not leave your home if you or your child you have coronavirus symptoms. These are:

- new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home and start self-isolating. Do not have any visitors until you get your result. Anyone you live with must also stay at home until you get your result.

If you or your child develops symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

If there is a confirmed case in your household, all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. **Please contact school as soon as possible if your child tests positive for coronavirus.**

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Further information on 'Stay at home guidance' is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We will of course keep you informed of the situation and please contact the school office if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Simon Beahan
Acting Executive Headteacher