

Thank you for your hard work

Once again, Thank you for all your hard work in supporting your children learning from home. We really do appreciate all the effort that is going in to trying to maintain some small sense of normality for our children.

Please note that the grids put up on the website every 2 weeks are there for you to dip into whenever you can. They are not there as work that must be completed. We are very aware of how stressful 'Home-Learning' can be with many of our staff supporting Longfields children as well as Home schooling their own.

These are very difficult times and working together as a school community continues to be key. Please ensure you contact your class teacher should you need any support or guidance.

At present, it is still very vague as to when children may be able to return to school and when it does happen, in what capacity. I am expecting that when some kind of green light is given it will be under social distancing guidance for a period of time.

Use of Microsoft Teams for Virtual Learning

With this in mind, we have decided to press ahead with the use of Microsoft Teams to deliver some virtual contact / sessions for our children. We have generated usernames and passwords for each pupil in school and once all the backroom infrastructure is in place we will begin to roll out some virtual learning sessions.

Initially these sessions will be for small groups of pupils and will simply be an opportunity for your child to see and chat to their teacher, ask questions about the work they have been doing and gain some face-to-face support. Just being able to see their class teacher will hopefully achieve a bit of extra moral support for each child.

It is our hope that these could possibly develop into short teaching sessions at some point or used for reading / story telling (particularly with our younger children). Please note that it is no way our intention to be live streaming lessons all day – far from it – this is simply to try and give a little extra (tangible / visible) support for our children.

We do not envisage any of these sessions to start until week beginning 18th May as this will give time for people to sign up and for staff to undertake a few test runs.

In order for this to happen there will need to be some set-up performed on whatever device your child will be using (download of Microsoft Teams Desktop version for computers, or the App version for other devices) and we will need to gain your permission for your children to access these virtual sessions.

Permission can be given through Scopay and if you agree you will also be agreeing with the protocols listed at the end of this letter.

Once you have chosen to give permission, you will need to email your child's class teacher and they will then release to you the username and password for your child to use when logging in to Microsoft Teams.

As with most things in the present climate, we are venturing out of our comfort zones and trying new things. We are very much doing this with our journey into virtual learning so please bear with us as we try to get it right and give a little more support.

Once we have enough pupils signed up, we will send out some more information in regards to timetabled sessions and groupings.

In the meantime please do keep safe and keep up the hard work.

Microsoft Teams Permission and Protocol (please read carefully)

- I give permission for my child to use Microsoft Teams technology in regards to accessing video groups and understand that in order for access to be granted the regulations and guidelines below must be adhered to.
- Children must be dressed appropriately at all times and broadcasting from an appropriate location
(A communal environment, not a bedroom).
- Pupils are expected to behave in the same manner as they would in a school classroom. Unacceptable behaviour may result in the pupil being removed from the virtual group setting.
- Following Safeguarding protocol, all virtual sessions through Microsoft Teams will be recorded. Pupil backgrounds should be blurred using background options on Microsoft Teams.
- Where and if possible, an adult should be nearby whilst pupils are in a virtual classroom (to offer support if needed), but please note, these sessions are set up for pupil to staff interaction.
- Live streaming will be kept to a reasonable length of time and will not be undertaken on a 1 to 1 basis
- All meetings will be scheduled by a staff member and due to home or school commitments may not be able to be at a regular timetabled slot – **please do not attempt to initiate a video call through Microsoft Teams.**
- The use of the Microsoft Teams pupil login is to be used for the sole purpose of linking home to school, the use of pupil login for any other purpose may result in your account being suspended.