



LING MOOR
A PRIORY ACADEMY

10th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

September Arrangements

As we head towards the official end of the academic year, our thoughts turn to September and the return back to school for all of our Ling Moor Family. I wanted to write to you to share important information for September. This is based upon current government guidance and is subject to change as the government shares further information and updates.

Needless to say, in September our Ling Moor Family will need to be flexible and adaptable and incredibly supportive of each other as we respond to the pandemic and the impact that it has on our everyday lives.

Within this letter, we have attempted to be as detailed as possible with the information that we can give you.

The government guidelines are:

- grouping children together in groups or "bubbles" (in primary this will be a class)
- avoiding contact between these groups during the school day
- separate starting, finishing, lunch and break times
- attendance compulsory with the threat of penalty fines
- test and trace in place for schools
- regular cleaning of hands
- those with symptoms told to stay out of school
- no big group events like school assemblies
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- masks not expected for pupils or staff

Pods

In order to reduce the risk of infection, the children will be spending their learning time in a bubble with the children in their class. This will be their class based pod. If a child shows symptoms of Corona virus (raised temperature, loss of taste or smell, new and persistent cough) in a pod, it will reduce the risk of any infection spreading.

Our next layer of our pods is to place a bubble around the year group. This will enable us to plan lunches and break times with as little disruption as possible. In our Reception class for example, the pod has to be the whole year group due to the way in which the space is organised and the children interact. We also hope to have individual year groups on the playground together as we value the positive interaction between year group classes.

EMPOWERING POTENTIAL

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The Ling Moor Priory Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

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Hygiene

Prior to the children coming back to school in September, please can you spend time with them over the summer supporting them to understand the need to wash hands regularly, cover their mouths/noses when sneezing/coughing and following the catch it, bin it, kill it guidance.

Arrival & Collection

The morning drop off is often a very busy time and from September we would ask you to plan extra time for this. On arrival at school, the first thing that all of the children will be asked to do is wash their hands. A key part of ensuring the children are helped to keep as safe as possible is to wash hands frequently and often.

Times for arrival will be staggered. We would ask that the earliest time that any children arrive on the Academy site is 8.25am.

	Arrival time	Collection time	Entry/collection point
Reception	9am	2.50pm	Reception double doors
Y1	8.40 am	3.10pm	Classroom doors on field side
Y2	8.30am	3.00pm	Classroom doors on KS1 playground
Y3	8.40 am	3.10pm	Miss Baldwin's class - classroom door on field side Miss Abernethy's class - classroom doors on KS1 playground side
Y4	8.30am	3.00pm	Miss Platt's class - classroom door on field side Mrs Durkin's class – side door next to the stage on the KS2 playground
Y5	8.40 am	3.10pm	Miss Litowczyk's class - front entrance to school Miss Stumm's class - classroom door on KS2 playground
Y6	8.30am	3.00pm	Year 6 will be asked to meet with teachers on the KS2 playground and will then be guided into school

We will also be staggering the collection times to reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time. When collecting children, please can you make sure that the children stay with you and do not go off and play.

Symptoms and our response

The symptoms of Corona virus are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child or any family member displays these symptoms, the current government guidance around testing and self-isolation must be followed. If a child presents these symptoms in school, they will be isolated from other pupils and we will ask for them to be collected. At this point a test should be booked/taken and we would ask for any results to be shared confidentially with the Academy. Pupils who are sent home due to potential symptoms will only be allowed to return to school once the test outcomes are received or the designated period of self-isolation are followed. Siblings of a child with symptoms will also need to be collected at this point.

Should a child test positive, we will follow Public Health England guidance. This may result in wider testing, a period of isolation or the Academy having to close pods or year groups for a period of time.

Parental communication

In order to speed up the process of children coming into school, we will be asking all parents to email or call our administration team should any messages need to be passed to the class teacher. Please can you reduce the need to come into the foyer area at the front of the Academy and we would also ask that only one parent is in the foyer area at a given time.

Illness

In order to keep all of the children safe and avoid unnecessary disruption next year, we will be asking all parents to be very vigilant should their child be unwell and keep them at home where necessary. If a child is sent into school unwell, the potential for disruption over a longer period of time increases.

Paracetamol based products (such as Calpol) are often used in cases when children are feeling poorly and children are sometimes sent to school having paracetamol based products in the morning. As these products suppress temperature, please do not give this to your child prior to school. If they are poorly, please do keep them at home.

Sanitising gel

We would strongly urge parents to not send their child with hand gel. We will ensure that all of the classrooms and learning spaces have enough hand gel available although children will always be asked to wash hands where possible as this has a greater impact upon removal of any virus.

Masks

The government guidance around masks in schools is very clear. Children and adults are not permitted to wear masks in school and any child arriving at school wearing a mask will be asked to remove the mask and place it in a clear sealed plastic bag prior to entering school.

Cleaning

We will continue to maintain the cleaning systems that have been in place during the reopening of the Academy to limited numbers of children.

Classroom desks

The government guidance states that the children should be sat at tables facing the front. This is not possible in all of our classrooms or appropriate for the style of learning that is in place where children do not learn sitting facing the front (for example in our Foundation stage). The teachers are making choices about how they organise the seating in their classroom. They are doing this with health and well-being in mind.

Resources

The children will have all of the resources they need for their learning in school. We would ask you to not send in extra resources with your child. They will need PE kits, water bottles and books to change as normal.

Friday

The aim for the Academy is to be open for the full week for the children. However, if there is an impact upon staffing numbers through Corona related challenges, we may resort to the option of closing to all pupils at 1pm on a Friday. This will be a last resort but we do need parents to be aware of this and to make employers aware. If we do have to close on a Friday, the Academy will be closed to all pupils.

Bubbles@Ling Moor

We are working hard to ensure that the before and after school club provided by Bubbles is able to run safely in September. We believe that we have overcome the unique challenges that face us in ensuring that we keep the integrity of our pods in order for all children who require this service to be able to do so. Please do book directly with Bubbles and assume that wrap-around childcare will be in place. With staggered start and finish times, we will be working with Bubbles@LingMoor to make sure things run smoothly.

Music tuition

We are currently working with our providers to find a solution that works for everyone so that music tuition can take place. We will not be able to host the usual music tuition that takes place during the first full week at the beginning of term but hope to be able to do this quickly after.

After school clubs

We have an exciting list of new clubs and activities ready to share but we are pausing the start of these to think about how we can make them work with the pod system in place.

Lunch

Hot lunches will be available as normal. Please use the new booking system. From September we are moving to a cashless system for payment. Some children may be asked to eat their lunch in their classroom but we hope that the majority of the children are able to dine in the hall.

Uniform

Through the summer, we have relaxed the uniform expectations for those children coming into school. From September, please can you continue to support the Academy by maintaining the high standards of uniform that we would usually expect at Ling Moor.

Mobile phones

The Academy has a clear no mobile phone policy in place. The exceptions are where parents have made a specific request for a child in Y5 or Y6 to have their phone with them as they travel to school. Parents must have written permission from the Headteacher and children must deposit their phone with the administration staff. In September this facility will not be available and children with prior written permission must not bring their phone to school as they will not be able to deposit them at the front desk.

If you have any further questions regarding September, please do not hesitate to contact us via the enquiries@ling-moor.lincs.sch.uk email address. As with many of the steps we have had to take recently, the detail is really important and as we work through the summer, we will be making sure that we make our environment as safe and as normal as possible.

We are genuinely excited about having our Ling Moor Family back together again in September and ensuring that the children have the best possible learning experience. The Academy has put in extra staffing capacity and changes to the curriculum to ensure that we meet the needs of the children as they return to school. The stability, normality of school life and the connection with other children is perhaps what the children need most and we are looking forward to providing this in September.

Kind regards

John Sisman
Headteacher

