

Dear Parents/Carers

17 March 2020

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of 'delaying' the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Lime Academy Larkswood we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the Government, Lime Trust, and the Local Authority.

What is the current situation?

- There are a number of staff who are following government guidelines and are self-isolating for the recommended period
- The school remains open under direct advice from Public Health England
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 14 days:
 - The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.
- If a member of your family starts to feel unwell with either a new continuous cough or a temperature all members of your household need to self-isolate for 14 days
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by contacting the school office on 0208 529 4979
- We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff?

- We will continue to monitor the health of the children according to our usual procedures, i.e. taking a child's temperature and contact you immediately if your child begins to show either of the symptoms outlined above
- We are advising and supporting self-isolation for families that are affected or have been advised by NHS 111 to do so
- We have increased our daily cleaning and sanitising routine and the promotion of handwashing/use of hand sanitiser throughout the school
- Additional lessons throughout all years to address the children's concerns
- We will not be holding any school assemblies until further notice
- Lunch times will carry on as normal with extra cleaning measures implemented

We have also postponed or cancelled the following events/clubs, and will update you when they will resume or an alternative date has been scheduled:

- Voice in a Million - postponed
- Monday Rugby Club – cancelled until further notice
- Thursday Swimming lessons (Class 4DO) - cancelled until further notice
- Thursday morning gymnastics lessons - cancelled until further notice
- Wednesday Rocksteady - cancelled until further notice
- Mondays Woodwind lessons held by Music for Schools - cancelled until further notice
- Thursdays Piano Lessons - cancelled until further notice
- Tuesdays Choir Club - cancelled until further notice

Lime Academy Larkswood
70-72 New Road, Chingford, London E4 8ET **Tel:** 020 8529 4979 **Email:** school@larkswoodlime.london

The Lime Trust, trading as Lime Academy Larkswood is a company limited by guarantee and exempt charity.
CN: 09297519 **RO:** 70-72 New Road, London E4 8ET.

- Wednesdays Guitar and Ukulele lessons held by Waltham Forest Music Service - cancelled until further notice
- Monday to Friday Super Star Sports lessons have been cancelled until further notice. Catchup lessons will be arranged in the future

Some other planned trips are yet to be confirmed/postponed, the Head of year will update you once this is decided.

What we need you to do?

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible via [email/telephone]
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a worrying time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and YoungMinds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- If you are asked to collect your child, please do so straight away

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so by the government or if we do not have enough staff to run the school safely.

In either case, we will:

- Contact you via School Comms – Text and email
- Regular updates will also be available on our school website
- In the event of a closure we will arrange for home learning opportunities for each year group to be sent home or be available online. Home learning opportunities will continue throughout any school closure
- In the event of a school closure any queries or concerns that you may have should be directed to school@larkswoodlime.london

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close at present.

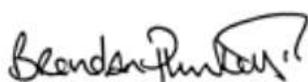
If you have any questions please consult:

- Public Health England using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools

Following recent government guidance on social distancing measures between people in order to reduce the transmission of coronavirus, please may we ask that if you have a query/question, that you please telephone or email rather than come to the school office where possible.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,



Brendan Plunkett
Head teacher