

December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

**End of Term Arrangements**

I am sure I won’t be the only person that is glad that the year 2020 is about to come to a close. It will certainly be remembered in Longdendale history for being very eventful! We would like to thank you for all the support you have given us and the lovely messages of thanks we have received for the work we have undertaken to continue to operate during the past few months in very challenging circumstances. Our staff have been working hard to provide your child with an education, both in classrooms and ‘remotely’ and the learners have demonstrated resilience and an eagerness to work with us to get through this together. Although we recognise the challenge presented by all the changes to school life, the thing that makes us ‘Longdendale’, our sense of community and consideration for others, has meant that we end this first term more determined than ever that that together we really can achieve anything.

As this term ends, we would like to share the arrangements for the last day and the start to the new academic year. School finishes for the Christmas break on **Friday 18 December 2020**. As is customary there will be an early finish and school will close at 12.20pm. Unfortunately, not all of the school buses will be running. The following buses have confirmed that they **will provide an EARLY service** from school at 12:20pm:

* **Y85**
* **817**
* **837**

Please make **alternative arrangements** for your child to get home if they use an alternative bus service.

A selection of food and drink will be available as usual for all learners at break time on the final day. Free school meal learners will be able to collect sandwiches at break if required.

On the last day learners will be asked to **donate an item to our local foodbank** for the opportunity to voluntarily wear festive jumpers/tee-shirts/sweatshirts. These can be shop bought, but also learners can be creative and decorate an existing top with festive decoration. Blazers do not need to be worn, however please ensure your child wears their usual bottom halves of their uniform.

* Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes
* Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid
* Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons
* Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food
* Face masks and hand sanitiser
* Cereal
* Soup
* Pasta/Rice
* Tinned Tomatoes/Pasta sauce
* Lentils, beans and pulses
* Tinned veg
* Tea/coffee
* Tinned fruit
* Biscuits
* UHT milk
* Fruit juice

The Trussell Trust (foodbank) have indicated that they are in need of the following food and non-food items:

If you yourself are in financial crisis over this festive period, please call 0808 2082138 for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) to talk confidentially to a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They will talk to you about the problems you’re facing and provide support to help you manage your money, navigate the benefits system, and identify any other grants you might be entitled to. If you need one, they’ll issue you with a food bank voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel.

**Tameside South & Longdendale Foodbanks:**

PHONE: 07901 786905 / WEBSITE: [http://tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk](http://tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk/)

EMAIL: info@tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk

**Local Foodbank Centres:**

**Hattersley Baptist Church**

Fri -14:00 - 15:00

Hattersley Baptist Church
Melandra Crescent
Hattersley SK14 3RB

**St Mary's Church Hollingworth**

Mon- 11:00 - 12:00

Market St
Hollingworth SK14 8NE

**Hyde Central Methodist Church**

Wed - 01:00 - 02:00

Crook St
Hyde SK14 1NQ

Please note that school reopens to learners on **Tuesday 5 January 2020** (blue week) for the start of the Spring Term.

Standards of uniform continue to be a priority as professional dress creates a professional climate for learning. May we take this opportunity to request that families support us with ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for school.

As you are aware, we introduced some changes this year that we would like your continued support with:

* On advice from Public Health England, where possible please could all jewellery be avoided, this includes watches and earrings, if earrings are chosen to be worn, they should wear only one pair of small studs, worn in the ear lobes. No nose or other facial piercings are permitted.
* No trainers – all sports brands are banned as school shoes. Please support us by not purchasing sports brands such as Nike, Adidas, Puma, Converse, New Balance and Umbro etc…
* The new blue PE kit introduced last year is now compulsory for ALL learners across all school years.

For further details of uniform requirements and stockists please refer to our website.

As this virus continues to be with us into 2021, please support us in ensuring your child comes to school with a **plain mask** and encourage them to wear it in all public indoor spaces around the school site. Whilst eating and drinking they be temporarily removed.

Additionally, please consider carefully how your child is going to travel to and from school. If they are walking, please encourage them to maintain a social distance from others. If they are being transported by car please could all drivers not park, pick up or drop off learners on the turning circle. Under no circumstances will drivers be able to use the drive up to school to drop off or pick up their child. Please support us in making school a safe place and where possible, find an alternative meeting point away from the school site and the busy school bus bays.

The guidance still remains for us to continue to encourage learners not to travel by public transport where possible. If there is no alternative please could you ensure your child wears a face covering and observes their social distance. As all buses are managed and operated by private providers, your child may be removed from the bus and subsequently may be barred from using the bus if they are not observing the law. Additionally, parents and carers may be fined a minimum of £200 if their child is not complying with the statutory regulations.

Thank you again for your continued support of our school. Longdendale belongs to the learners, by working in partnership together to support school improvement we can build together an even better school where every child, parent and staff member feels proud to be a part of our community. We would like to wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at your child’s Parental Consultation Evening in the forthcoming year, either in person or virtually!

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Willis

(Assistant Headteacher)