



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

Long Close School, Upton Court Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7LU, UK
T: +44 (0) 1753 520095 E: info@longcloseschool.co.uk W: www.longcloseschool.co.uk

4th November 2020

Dear Parents,

The COVID journey takes another twist at midnight when England enters a period of enhanced restrictions until 2nd December at the earliest.

I wanted to update you on the impact these restrictions have on the school community, remind you of the many measures we are taking to mitigate risk as much as feasible, and make a mention of wellbeing at this challenging time.

Firstly, the government have been clear that schools should remain open and we intend to follow their guidance, as we have done throughout the pandemic. The government guidance that *“the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people”* should be prioritised, is a sentiment we share.

We also however recognise that this continues to be an unsettling time for the country, and especially our parents. Whilst some parents may whole-heartedly agree with this sentiment, others will disagree.

I want to assure you that we continue to provide the safest possible environment we can for the whole school community and that includes:

- Enhanced daily and weekly cleaning, hand hygiene built into the day, sanitiser and wipes all around the school, and a disinfectant ‘fogger’ to supplement the cleaning efforts
- Social distancing through the bubble concept, staggered drop off/pick up, lunch and break times. All our staff follow social distancing guidelines between themselves and the students, and between other staff members, as much as humanly possible in the school context
- Face coverings are worn in communal areas by Senior School children and staff

The new restrictions the government has introduced have a limited impact on our school operations – we remain open and, in many respects, it is ‘business as (the new) normal’. However, there are some points to note:

- Wraparound care and after school clubs will continue. We aim to keep students in their bubbles as much as possible to minimise risk
- Extra-curricular activities can continue provided they are part of the school day, or extended school day, and follow the bubble concept

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Finally, and most importantly. We continue to put the wellbeing of our students, and also our staff, at the top of the agenda. Being in school, with friends, is the best place for children. Our staff will continue to do an amazing job in the most challenging of circumstances and we thank you for your continued support. Cognita provide a range of wellbeing support materials for educators and also parents, and this is [publicly available to you on this page of the website](#).

Please be assured that we continue our laser focus on providing a safe, secure and supportive educational environment for your child, and we are available if you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Nijjar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Miss K Nijjar
Headteacher

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