



LONGSANDS LINK – 16th December 2021



Don't forget that school will close at **2.00pm** tomorrow, **Friday 17th December** for the Christmas holidays.

We return to school on **Thursday 6th January at 8.55am**



SCHOOL MILK

If you would like your child to have milk in school after the holidays, then you will need to order this via Cool Milk by **5.00pm** on **Friday 24th December** due to the bank holidays the following week. If you order after this time, then your milk will begin the following week.

Order Cool Milk Here

RECEPTION CLASS

As we mentioned on last week's Longsands Link newsletter the children in Reception Class will now start and finish at the same time as the rest of school. So from **Thursday 6th January**, their new start time is **8.55am**, and they will finish at **3.20pm**. Don't forget to update any clubs, grandparents or friends who drop off and collect on your behalf.

PRESTON PHARMACY

We have received an update from Preston Pharmacy (by Tesco), to reassure everyone that despite there being a national shortage of paracetamol and lateral flow devices there is no need to panic. They have plenty of both items available and there are enough for everyone to go around. They have also asked us to remind parents that paracetamol and other medicines can be obtained free through their Pharmacy First Service.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

WC 03/01/22
WEEK 2

Mrs McKeown's Message

We have made it to the end of a very busy term with lots of exciting activities for your children. The children are tired and ready for the family break, which we all hope you enjoy. Thank you to those parents who have sent comments on Seesaw to the class following the Christmas postings. The comments are shared with the younger children in school and it has made them smile. Please keep reading the COVID updates we send through so you are kept abreast of any changes. Also, continue to let me know over the holidays of any positive cases in your household, as I still have to complete forms for Public Health. I would like you to continue to read the attachments to the Link, which we send out weekly as they are important and last week there was a lot of useful supportive ideas for you especially for during the break. This week there is a letter from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health who is sharing his thoughts with you. Our weekly newsletters are stored on the school website in case you cannot access them on your device. Have a lovely family break, try to rest and keep safe.

We will see you in 2022.

From all the Staff and Governors Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs McKeown

PTFA

Your child will be bringing home a Christmas treat tonight from the Longsands PTFA. We would like to thank them for all of their hard work, support and commitment to everyone here at Longsands. Merry Christmas!

YEAR 4 SWIMMING

The children in Year 4 will be swimming at Fulwood Leisure Centre each morning from Monday 17th January 2022 until Friday 28th January. Full details have been sent home on a letter this week. If you haven't yet seen it, please check your child's bag or contact school for a copy.

CONTACT DETAILS

It is really important that the information that we hold in school for you is up-to-date and correct. If you have any contact telephone numbers, email addresses or home residential addresses that have changed, please email Mrs Wilds at the school office:

office@longsands.lancsngfl.ac.uk so that we can update our records

Happy Birthday

REUBEN, THEO, JEMIMAH, MAX, MAYA, LOCHLAN, JAMIE, ARCHIE, EMMA, RYAN, JOSHUA, EMILY, KAMYAA, AANIYA and HARRY.

SEPTEMBER 2022 PLACES

If you have a child who has their 4th birthday between 1st September 2021 & 31st August 2022, you must now apply for their place in Primary School. You still need to make an application even if they have a brother or sister at your chosen school. Applications should be made online to Lancashire County Council at **APPLY HERE**

The deadline for all September 2022 applications is

11.59pm on Saturday 15th January 2022.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

For those who are eligible for official free school meals, (not to be confused with Universal Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), your vouchers have been ordered and should be received within 24 hours of Friday 17th December. For this holiday period you will receive £30 per child. If you think that you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals and are not currently doing so you can **apply here** or by calling 01772 532109.

Pupils of the Week

RECEPTION: HARSHITH

YEAR 1: ALL OF YEAR 1

YEAR 2: JOSHUA

YEAR 3: ALL OF YEAR 3

YEAR 4: EISA

YEAR 5: ALL OF YEAR 5

YEAR 6: ALL OF YEAR 6

Longsands Values

RECEPTION: ATTICUS

YEAR 1: ALL OF YEAR 1

YEAR 2: HARRY

YEAR 3: ALL OF YEAR 3

YEAR 4: HANNAH

YEAR 5: SARA

YEAR 6: LEO

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Intrahealth who have again delivered this year's Flu Vaccination Programme will continue with this until the end of January 2022. They will be running flu vaccination clinics in a community venue next month for any pupils who have missed their vaccination in school. If you would like to speak to a member of their team for more information or any other query please telephone **0333 358 3397, Option 3, then Option 1.**



Our target attendance at is **96%**.

RECEPTION: 96.35%

YEAR 1: 95.03%

YEAR 2: 95.18%

YEAR 3: 94.92%

YEAR 4: 94.52%

YEAR 5: 92.74%

YEAR 6: 96.45%

DANCE CLUB

Please see the letter attached to this week's Link about a breakfast dance club starting after Christmas for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will run each Friday (8.00am to 8.45am) from 14th January to 11th February 2022.

The cost is £25.00 and will need to be sent in a clearly marked and sealed envelope, together with the completed consent form and marked for the attention of the Dance Teacher Sally Whitaker. This will take place in the school hall and entry to the club each Friday morning will be via the external hall door **and not** through the main school entrance.

Dear Parents

This year has been one of the most difficult that schools have ever faced. Families too have had to adjust in a number of ways and it has not been easy for us all. Some of you have sadly lost people close to you as a result of the pandemic and our sincere condolences go to all of you effected in this way.

There are a number of different sources of guidance and restriction that can change, sometimes daily, national government, local health advisors, education bulletins and local advisors. It is never easy charting a course through these restrictions. There is a fine balance between trying to provide each child with the best curriculum possible and at the same time keeping them, their families and all who work in the school as safe as possible.

We will always differ in our opinions of what is the most suitable course, but Mrs McKeown is willing to discuss with you the more detailed reasons why the school has taken the path it has chosen to follow.

Recent research has shown that children kept away from school for longer periods of time will suffer, educationally, socially and mentally and Longsands is doing all it can to try and ensure it does not have to close bubbles, this is the school's first priority. We as a governing body support this priority. Many parents are involved with the care of others and some work in roles that support the running and infer structure of our society. By avoiding having children at home, we will enable you to continue in your important roles.

I wish to express my gratitude to all of the teaching staff who have willingly taken the additional time to provide extra work and support for those children at home during lockdowns and illness.

The new variant is causing concern and the future into the New Year is uncertain, however, at this time, the school is preparing to open on its planned date in January.

I wish to thank you for all of the support that parents give to the work that the staff at Longsands do. It is appreciated.

Finally, as we approach the holidays, I hope you can enjoy time with your families and those that are special to you, and my wish is that you can stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Stephen Hall
Chair of Governors

14 December 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all for your continued support during what has been yet another challenging term.

Before you enjoy some much-needed quality time with your loved ones over the Christmas period, there are some important information I would like to share with you.

As you will be aware, England has moved to Plan B measures in response to the rapid spread of the new Omicron variant of Covid-19. On Sunday, the chief medical officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland recommended that the UK's coronavirus alert level was raised from three to four following an exponential rise in the number of Omicron cases, prompting the government to ramp up the delivery of the booster programme.

This new variant is continuing to spread rapidly across the country, with several cases confirmed in Lancashire and more expected to come.

In the run up to Christmas many schools in Lancashire have been working flat out to manage cases of Covid-19 whilst trying to keep as many children in school as possible for face-to-face education. One of our key priorities is to manage this new variant and minimise further disruption to face-to-face education, while managing the overall Covid-19 risk.

To achieve this, I am asking for your help in taking the following actions for keeping Lancashire safe:

Vaccinations

Getting vaccination is one of the most important things we can do to minimise disruption to children's education and to protect them from becoming unwell with Covid-19.

On 29th November 2021 the government accepted updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) following the emergence of the Omicron variant.

JCVI recommended that 12 to 17-year-olds should receive a second dose, which should take place no sooner than 12 weeks after the first dose. Children aged 12 to 17 can book their vaccination via the [National Booking Service](#) online or by calling 119.

For 12 to 15-year-olds who have not yet had a first dose, appointments have been made available and allocated specifically to this age group over the school holidays. These can be booked by the [National Booking Service](#) for anyone over 12 who has not yet had a first dose. They should come along with their legal parent or guardian.

For your young people aged 16 to 17 years and 8 months old, there are several sites across Lancashire where they can get their Covid-19 vaccine.

[A consent form is available on GOV.UK](#)

Visit www.healthierlsc.co.uk/getmyjab for more info about where your child can get their vaccination.

Testing

One of the most important things we can do to manage the virus through routine testing over the festive period, and before the return to school in the New Year, using free, rapid lateral flow tests. If you are planning to meet friends and family who do not live in your household, either in an indoor or outdoor setting, then please take a lateral flow test before you do so.

Before your child returns to school, it is important that they take a lateral flow test. If test result is positive, then isolate immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test. Only leave home to take the test. You must also inform your child's school.

If your child has **one or more** of the following Covid-19 symptoms they must isolate and book a PCR test immediately:

1. a high temperature
2. a new, continuous cough
3. loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child's PCR test result is positive, they must isolate from the day their symptoms began and for the next 10 days. If your child has other symptoms and are in doubt, take a PCR test and keep them home like you normally would if they were unwell.

Close contacts

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of Covid-19.

[Read the government's guidance for contacts of people with confirmed Covid-19 infection here.](#)

Additional measures

We are continuing to support our schools in maintaining good ventilation, infection prevention and control measures. We will continue to follow the government's guidance, as set out in its '[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#)'. This may mean that decisions are taken by the school in collaboration with Lancashire's public health team to put in place additional measures dependent on a settings' individual circumstances.

I would once again like to ask you to continue to support staff as they navigate this period.

January brings a new year, but it will also bring new challenges. By working together, I am sure we can overcome them. Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sakthi Karunanithi
Director of Public Health



REVISED TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2021 – 2022

**Now includes additional bank holiday for
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

Autumn Term 2021

INSET DAY 1

Wednesday 1st September 2021

School Returns

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Half Term Holidays

Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021

Closure after school

Friday 17th December 2021 at **2.00pm**

Spring Term 2022

INSET DAY 2

Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET DAY 3

Wednesday 5th January 2022

School Returns

Thursday 6th January 2022

Half Term Holidays

Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2022

Closure after school

Friday 1st April 2022 at **2.00pm**

Summer Term 2022

School Returns

Tuesday 19th April 2022

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term Holidays

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

INSET DAY 4

Monday 6th June 2022

INSET DAY 5

Tuesday 7th June 2022

Jubilee Bank Holiday (in Lieu)

Wednesday 8th June 2022

School Returns

Thursday 9th June 2022

Closure after school

Friday 22nd July 2022 at **2.00pm**



IntraHealth

IntraHealth Ltd
Unit 10
Salmon Fields Business Park
Royton
Oldham
Greater Manchester
OL2 6HT
Telephone: (0161) 628 7428

Gentle reminder that all schools will get vaccination catchup sessions once and Community clinics are being held in the area. Dates of Community clinics will be circulated to all the schools in the area.

School Aged Flu Vaccination Programme

Intrahealth are commissioned to provide the school flu vaccination programme, protecting school-aged children aged 4-15 years on 31st August 2021 (reception-year 11). Any child who is in an **at-risk group** can be vaccinated with the GP or as part of the school's programme.

Intrahealth visit every school for a main flu vaccination session, and then once more for a catchup, which is arranged for later in the season.

There are also planned Community clinics provided in every area for those who miss the offer at school.

Vaccination sessions will be continuing until the end of January.

Do not refer Healthy children to GP for vaccination as they can't do them.

Please advise any parents or healthcare professional who contact you in relation to missed flu vaccination in school (excluding at risk children) or any other query to contact their local Intrahealth Coordinator on the below telephone number, choosing the appropriate option for the locality.

TEL: 0333 358 3397

IntraHealth Limited
Unit 10, Salmon Fields Business Park, Royton, Oldham, Greater Manchester. OL2 6HT

Registered in England and Wales No. 3783310

15th December 2021

Dear Parents

There will be a Dance Club starting every Friday morning from 8-8.45am. The club will run for 5 weeks (14/01/22 – 11/02/22) this will be a great chance for your child to build confidence, have fun and learn a new skill.

Payment

£25 for the 5 weeks dance course.

If your child wishes to attend this club please complete the form below along with the fees and return to the school office.

Yours sincerely

Sally Whitaker
Dance Teacher

Childs Name :

Year Group:

Parent/Guardian Contact Number:

Medical Conditions:

Parent/Guardian Signature

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