



St Michael's Nursery and Infant School

Station Road, Workington, CA14 2UY Tel. 01900 608111

Our website address: www.smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was disappointing to learn yesterday that the National Department for Education has turned down the joint Council and Public Health England request to close all schools in Cumbria which is in Tier 4, despite the Director of Public Health, Colin Cox, saying yesterday was Cumbria's darkest day for infection rates but fears worse is yet to come. The Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle has also declared a level 4 emergency as the number of people attending hospital with Covid-19 continues to rise.

As parents/carers you are aware that we have done everything that we can to prevent the spread of the virus at our school, but this new strain is infecting at a frightening rate and Governors and staff are concerned that no matter how COVID conscious we are, we cannot say we are COVID safe if we have all the children back on site together.

The County Council recognised the significant increase in the infection rate and are also concerned about the likelihood of further and significant transmission as a result of schools reopening and therefore will support the decisions made by schools.

After lengthy meetings and discussions with staff and the governing body the following decisions have been made.

Staff will carry out a review of the operational risk assessment and prepare remote learning for all pupils in their class. We will contact new Nursery starters individually.

A pack for each child will have daily activities that should be completed at home following the instructions. There will also be daily online Phonics tasks for children to do. Your child's individual Phonics lesson will be sent as a link via text message. Work that is completed at home is required to be returned when school reopens. Tasks will also be set on Purple Mash. Please follow your individual logins and click on the 'To Do' tab. These packs will be available for collection from school between 10am -11am on Tuesday 5th January. Please arrange for your child's pack to be collected. When entering school yard please enter via the Station Road gate. The packs will be on a table for collection on the playground and staff will be present should you require any assistance. Please then leave via the rear gate and remember to wear a mask and social distance at all times. If you are unable to collect the pack tomorrow please contact school via the email address admin@smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk to make alternative arrangements for collection.



School will be open as a hub for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable pupils. We will provide a learning environment during school hours only, 8.50am to 3.00pm. Once we have the list of children who require this support we will contact parents/carers and will have this provision available from Wednesday 6th January. We will do all we can to provide a safe environment for your child and the staff in the hub.

URGENT INFORMATION NEEDED. If you are a critical worker please email the school on admin@smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk to register your child if you require access to the hub and have no other alternative care for your child. This is really important as we are trying to minimise the number of children attending.

Please respond by 10am Tuesday 5th January.

Please state;

Name:

Year Group: Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2.

Criteria: Please state your requirements, where you work and the days/times (e.g. mornings or afternoons) you need your child to attend.

Contact details: Please provide your details and include an emergency contact.

This will be initially for a period of two weeks and will be reviewed regularly.

We do not take this action without serious consideration to the health of all concerned and the duty of care we owe to our children, families and staff.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Anne Richardson

Headteacher

