



28th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The twelve primary schools in the Workington District are working together to offer a child care hub as from Monday 30th March for families of key workers who have no other child care alternative. As a cluster we are working hard to ensure that childcare can remain in place for those children of key workers throughout the duration of school closures. Please be aware over the coming weeks this may be a diminishing resource. We must reiterate however that provision is **ONLY for our front line key workers** - it is not free child care. We all have a duty to make sure only those families who urgently need this support have access to it.

The message is and must continue to be **CHILDREN ARE SAFER AT HOME.**

Distington Community School will act as the cluster hub over the coming weeks. This will continue on a three-week cycle until further notice and will be available Monday-Friday **9am-3pm**, please do not arrive at school before this time. This provision is only for children aged between 5 and 11.

You have contacted us to use this service next week and we have already had contact via email to make the booking. Please can you also click on this link <https://cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/serviceupdates.asp> to officially register your booking with the County Council so they can help us to monitor provision and demand across the area. Going forward weekly childcare must be booked through contacting me at head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk by 6pm each Wednesday night for the following week so the hub administrator can ensure correct staffing levels can be maintained.

A hot meal will be provided if your child would like one. This can be ordered on arrival at the hub.

Please ensure your child wears sensible clothes for indoor and outdoor use. They will also need to bring a water bottle, coat and a pair of gloves for handling outdoor equipment and any medication they may be taking. **Please make sure you complete an 'administration of medicines' form** on arrival at the hub if this is required.

Please make sure that you take along evidence from your employer that supports your need for this emergency childcare place.

Please be aware this offer is provided by staff from a combination of schools and it is important to realise that your child may not know any of the staff.

We are very grateful to all the staff volunteers across our cluster of schools who are providing this service; be patient with us - it is an imperfect model to cope with an ever changing crisis.

Please only use this service when you have exhausted all available child care options.

Remember if possible, it is better for your child to be at home.

Best wishes and keep well,

Mrs Sue Frost
Hub Virtual Head