



St Bridget's (C of E) Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my letter this morning I have met again with the Cockermouth Consortium of Schools and we have agreed to close all our 9 Primary Schools for the rest of this week with the joint aim of reducing the spread of Covid 19 following the Christmas break. We also plan to review this again for the following week.

In order to reach this decision, we have listened to concerns over safety from people such as Colin Cox, Director of Public Health and John Readman, Executive Director - People (Director of Children's Service) and their concern over rising data for Allerdale and Cumbria and the national picture. We also know how rapidly this new strain of the virus spread through some of our local schools prior to and at the start of the Christmas holidays, and would not like to be responsible for potentially spreading the risk further and adding to the pressure on the NHS.

As I stated in my previous letter, as a school we strongly believe the best place for children to be is in school and the best way to learn is in school. If it was as simple a decision to make as - do we do stay open and teach in school or do we close and do home schooling , I think that would have been a very easy one for everybody concerned as no one has a desire to return to March's lock down. However, we need to look at the bigger picture and hope that by not mixing in school we are helping to act as a circuit breaker in line with Secondary Schools, with the aim of opening school for everyone as soon as possible.

Provision for Vulnerable children and Key Workers' children

We will still be open from tomorrow to act as a hub school for children who are classed as vulnerable (eg. Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan or who are registered with a Social Worker) and to children of key Workers (see information on following link)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



'We live to learn, laugh and play and enjoy every single day'

This provision is purely child care and it is important to know that your child will be in a mixed aged bubble and probably not with their class teacher or in their classroom . In addition to our current safety measures, staff in school will also be wearing masks but there is no expectation for your child to wear one. If your child has any medical needs the staff taking care of your child will be aware of this and there will be at least one first aid trained person at all times on the school premises.

If you need to use our child care facility it will operate from 8.30- 4.00pm as the running of wrap around care may not generate enough income stay open and staff may need to be furloughed again. I have attached a form to be completed by 5.30pm today please so we can plan staffing accordingly. [Please click on the link below to complete.](#)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HLe4bv0ppEK6-4UYnNs9AryKDpMxnihCjjF3b4czBPFUNTAyNENMUTc4RfIKNjVINKgxMTFXOTQ5US4u>

Home schooling

All teachers are now busy planning for home school learning - this will come to you in the form of Seesaw or tapestry depending on your child's age. All communication with teachers, parents and children will need to be done through this platform. If you have misplaced your log ins please email me and I will sort you out with a copy. All teachers had already planned for teaching in classrooms and it is not as easy as just sending this work home as it will need adapting to be suitable for remote learning. Please don't feel you have to print everything out either, working on paper and uploading a photo, or doing a screen shot if you can is absolutely fine - please make sure though whatever you return is legible. More information on this will, be provided when you log on. Please get in touch if you need any help with all of this- we are still here for you and working hard. We will also be in touch to sort out pick ups of reading books or printed work if necessary once we have established our hub school.

Free school Meal provision

If you receive Benefit linked Free School Meals I will also be in touch with regard to provision during closure if your child is not in school.

I know many of you were concerned about the safety aspect of school re-opening so you will welcome my decision but I am equally aware some of you may not agree. It was a decision I was hoping not to have to make again and hand on heart I have weighed up the cost of many different scenarios and believe this one to be the best possible action at this current moment.

I will be constantly reviewing the situation and will be back in touch shortly.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hemingway



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