



Cumberworth C.E. (A) First School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will undoubtedly know **school will be closed from the end of today until further notice**, as directed by the government, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Schools have been asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children which are those who are vulnerable or those whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and where these children cannot safely be cared for elsewhere.

Our staff are ready to fulfil their social responsibility to enable our Key Workers in these areas to provide essential services in this time of great social challenge. We ask all of our families to remember that this service will be to help vital services continue to function whilst ensuring the best possible levels of social distancing are maintained. The Government is anticipating that, in total, schools would have 10% of their normal pupil population in school.

The government have stressed, where possible, that all children stay at home.

In particular, we ask that parents of eligible children observe a responsible usage approach by keeping their children at home when they themselves are not at work, and in the first instance seek support from their partners, friends or other family members (excluding those in vulnerable groups such as the over 70s). For example, we would not consider it responsible use for a child to attend school whilst one of their parents, who were not a key worker, was at home. There still appears to be confusion as to whether or not both parents need to be Key Workers, with conflicting advice still being given. We would ask that if only one parent is a Key Worker then parent who is not looks after the children. Single parents who are key workers and can find no alternative provision will be entitled to a school place.

A corner stone of the Government's strategy remains social distancing - the more people our children and staff are exposed to, the greater the likelihood of them becoming infected which may ultimately result in schools being unable to continue providing emergency childcare altogether which has the potential to be especially problematic at the peak of the virus.

If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response and you have been identified as a Key Worker and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for provision. Please, therefore, contact us to request care for your child/children saying which day and times and your occupation. (Please note that we will not continue to teach the national curriculum and are only offering a childcare facility.) We will then offer places, based on need, taking our staffing numbers into account. At present a number of staff are already off work and a significant number of those still at work today are being asked to self-isolate from the weekend due to underlying health conditions.

It is likely that even if we are able to open and offer childcare on Monday that this may change and your child may need to go to another school. At present no decision has been taken as to whether we are able to offer care during the Easter holiday.

We will keep in touch via texts and the school website. Please take care and we all look forward to seeing you all when school can reopen.

I must stress please DO NOT send your child to school on Monday until either myself or Marina have confirmed with you that we can offer a place.

With best wishes

Maggie

Upholding Christian values, together we ENJOY our learning, ENRICH our lives and EXCEL by making the most of our talents and gifts