



## Cumberworth C.E. (A) First School

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Head Teacher: Mrs M. S. Walker - Business Manager: Marina Davis

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents of children in Year One,

Re: possible re-opening of schools from week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June for children in Year One

### Who can attend?

All children in Year One would be able to attend 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday with the exception of week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June where we would only offer a place on the Wednesday and Thursday.

If your child is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (i.e. in the shielded group) or someone in your household falls into that category then they **should not return to school at this time.**

If your child is 'clinically vulnerable', including those with asthma then I would advise you to consult your G.P for advice as to whether or not it is safe for your child to return to school. **If you decide to send them back then we will need to carry out a risk assessment with you beforehand.**

### What will our provision look like?

**School will look very different to what we are used to and we are a long way from providing 'normal' schooling.**

Government guidelines recognise that small children will not be able to socially distance themselves so we are required to put them into smaller groups and where possible groups of children should not mix. The maximum group size stipulated in the guidance is 15 children. In reality our groups will need to be much smaller to offer any realistic chance of sticking to the social distancing guidelines. This means that your child might not be able to be with and play with their best friends.

All Year One children will have a group base with allocated adults which will be Mrs Eason and members of support staff. When we know exactly how many children will be attending we can give you more details. Please note that Hedgehog Year Ones will not be with Mrs Parry in her classroom. Where possible we have been asked that the same adults work with the same group of children each day. We will try our best to do this but it may not always be feasible.

It will not be possible to share resources between groups of children and we have been advised to put things that cannot be cleaned easily away, e.g. soft furnishings, cuddly toys, puppets etc. This means that the children will not have access to the wide range of resources that they would normally have. The children will have an allocated table to sit at and work and will not be able to 'choose' as usual. Activities/tasks will be designed for the children to complete as independently as possible as we cannot be in close contact to give one to one adult support.

To enable us to keep groups of children apart we will be having staggered break times and lunchtimes to the rest of school. Our mid- day supervisors will continue to look after your children during the lunch break. Children will eat lunch in their group base which will be a packed lunch provided by school (you may send in your own if you prefer but please let us know if this is your intention when you confirm that you require a place).

We will be staggering school start and finish times and children will enter their group through an allocated door. You will not be able to come into school with your child. I know that this will be incredibly difficult during the first few days but we have to abide by these rules. We will be asking parents to observe social distancing rules when dropping off and picking up children and follow the one-way system for coming on to and leaving the school site, which will be shared with you nearer the time.

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

Children must not bring any toys or items from home including their book bag. They will need to bring their water bottle – ready filled – and this will be taken home at the end of each day for washing and refilling. If you are providing a packed lunch for your child they will, of course, need to bring this with them.

Staff will not be expected to routinely wear PPE but will be required to do so in administering some types of 1<sup>st</sup> aid, dealing with a toileting accident or if they are looking after a child who is showing symptoms of Covid-19.

If a child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 then we will have to keep them apart from the other children until you can collect them. Children and staff attending school are now eligible for a test. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school, then the whole of that group, including staff, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

We will of course be carrying out extra cleaning throughout the day, particularly on surfaces that easily become contaminated, and will follow guidelines on frequent handwashing, encouraging children not to touch their faces, to use and bin tissues if coughing etc.

We will be continuing to provide wrap-around care for children in Year One whose parents are keyworkers. Please see separate letter.

I know this may all seem very bleak but I wanted to be honest with you about what to expect. As I said at the beginning of my letter we cannot offer a 'normal' school day. We understand that many of the children will be anxious about the return to school having had so many weeks at home with you and we will do our utmost to make the experience for children as positive as we possibly can in the current circumstances. We will not be able to cuddle your child or hold hands but will find other ways of comforting them, if necessary.

Please remember that it is your decision to send your child back to school and no penalties will be issued for non-attendance. I know that it is not an easy decision and we will fully respect your choice.

Whilst you may have already indicated that you intend to send your child back if the proposed reopening goes ahead some parents were awaiting further guidance before making their decision. Even if you have responded previously it is important that you confirm whether or not you will be sending your child back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June if the government stands by the decision to re-open school. Please email Marina at [office@cumberworthfirstschool.co.uk](mailto:office@cumberworthfirstschool.co.uk) by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at the latest.

Once we have final numbers we will be in touch again to let you know which group your child is in and to give you further details regarding where to bring them on the first day.

If you have any further questions then please let us know.

With best wishes

Maggie