

Plumpton School,
Plumpton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9PA
Tel 01768 894247 e-mail admin@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk
Web site: www.plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk

"Plumpton - a happy, safe and caring school where everyone is valued"

25th March, 2020

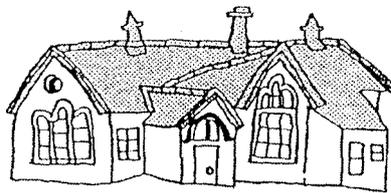
Dear Parents/ Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you and your families are all well during these difficult times. Thank you for your co-operation with helping your child/children to carry on with schoolwork via the packs we sent home and the online messages. The teachers are really impressed with how much the children are doing and enjoy being able to send them messages.

There has been lots of confusion in the changing situations with regards to provision for children with essential worker parents/carers. On Friday we were told by the Department for Education that families where one parent was an essential worker would be eligible for childcare at school. This however changed on Sunday evening to both parents/carers being essential workers. Nobody at Plumpton School who was eligible for childcare needed to make use of the provision so as a school we closed.

This, however, is not the case in several of our cluster schools and the Local Authority has asked all of us within the cluster to work together to provide a cluster hub for all eligible children. Our cluster schools are: Armathwaite, Kirkoswald, Lazonby, Langwathby, Patterdale, Penruddock, Greystoke, Skelton, Stainton and Calthwaite. Whilst we have no eligible pupils requiring childcare, Plumpton School has been selected as a possible hub school because of its central location within the cluster and its proximity to the A6 for parents needing to travel to work in Penrith or Carlisle.

If the cluster hub-school goes ahead at Plumpton, it will be for families where **both** parents are essential workers **and** are working directly in the current Covid 19 campaign. If you are eligible you can still apply for childcare but still the advice is that the best provision for children is for them to stay at home unless absolutely necessary. It is anticipated from the 11 schools in our cluster there will probably be no more than 12 children needing childcare. The headteachers have asked staff to volunteer and we have enough teachers to work on a rota to supervise these children safely ensuring social distancing. This will be on a rota with a bank of support staff to cover any illness.



Plumpton School,
Plumpton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9PA
Tel 01768 894247 e-mail admin@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk
Web site: www.plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk

"Plumpton - a happy, safe and caring school where everyone is valued"

This not an ideal situation as children will be separated for most of the time and will be working with unfamiliar staff. I want to assure you that extra measures will be in place to protect our school building and resources; all of your children's personal belongings such as contents of their drawers, water bottles, PE equipment that has been left behind will be kept well away from the hub-school. All data relating to your child/children will be locked and stored away in accordance with GDPR regulations. This will include all of your children's books and any school records stored in the school office.

Resources available to the school hub will be vastly reduced in accordance to the Health and Safety Guidelines that we have been issued with via the Local Authority. This is to limit contact with unsuitable materials that cannot be sterilised on a daily basis. We are working with our cleaning operators (Orion) to ensure that we have increased cleaning on a daily basis to protect all children and staff but to ensure that Plumpton School is a safe environment for our children to return to.

This is a very difficult situation for all of us to manage and changes drastically day by day. I know that you will have questions regarding these arrangements but at the moment, nothing is a definite plan; we are all trying hard to ensure that we can help essential workers in the campaign against Covid 19. Once finalised, I will be in touch with details but please do not hesitate to contact the school either by email or telephone if you need to.

Yours sincerely,

S. L. Penny

Head teacher