



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

4th January, 2021

FOR URGENT ATTENTION

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to School Opening Arrangements

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hold faith and hope that we will turn a corner regarding the Coronavirus pandemic soon so that we are able to resume normality both in school and beyond the gates. With the development of new vaccines, we must hold onto the hope that this point may come in the not too distant future.

I must apologise for the very late notice of this letter. The situation regarding Covid cases and the opening of schools has been changing very rapidly.

As you are aware, Cumbria has now moved to Tier 4 and Covid cases in both Carlisle and Eden are now very high, driven by the new strain. Rates are also rising rapidly across the whole of Cumbria.

Yesterday (Sunday, 3rd January) The Department for Education turned down a joint County Council and Public Health England request to close all schools in Cumbria. Cumbria County Council are now supporting schools who are now having to make serious decisions regarding the health and safety of pupils and staff with very tight time restrictions and limited staff availability.

Consequently, today's planned staff Inset day will be used to revise risk assessment and procedures so that we can open safely on Tuesday, 5th January. However, at this present time, it is not clear what form that opening will take.

It will either be:

1. The full opening of school to all pupils **OR**
2. Learning will be moved on line for a period of time with school being open to vulnerable children and children of key workers who are **unable to make alternative childcare arrangements**. Please note places may be limited dependant on staff availability.

Can I please ask that you contact school through the admin@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk email address by **3pm today** if you are a key worker (stating your key worker status and reason for the request) or require a place for a vulnerable pupil should option 2 be necessary. **You do not need to email the office if you do not require a place.**

Please also check guidance around the use of informal childcare before requesting a place, as this has changed since the summer. **I will endeavour to notify all parents of the outcome as soon as is practicable later today.**

Yours sincerely,
S.L. Penny
Head teacher