

Workington & District Primary Heads Association

Chair: Ms Angela Quirk, Derwent Vale Primary School head@distington-comm.cumbria.sch.uk 01900 601233
Secretary: Mrs Sue Frost, Ashfield Junior School head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk 01900 601807
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Dear Parents/Carers

As many of you will have seen today Cumbria County Council wrote to the DfE asking that all schools within the County remain closed to all but key worker and vulnerable pupils due to the worrying rise in Covid cases in the local area. This request has been denied so all Cumbrian primary schools are expected to open as planned this week.

Following much discussion today within our cluster group and within each individual school's leadership teams and governing bodies we have collectively made the decision to delay opening to pupils and plan to open to key worker and vulnerable children on Wednesday 6th January, but we will keep you up to date if this changes following any further local or national advice.

If you require a key worker or vulnerable child place at school please contact:

admin@derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk by Tuesday 5th January.

This decision has been made to allow us all time to appropriately review our risk assessments through consultation with governing bodies, staff and the local authority health & safety team and put in place any new measures that may be needed to prepare to safely welcome the children back onto our sites.

As I'm sure you will appreciate this decision has not been taken lightly but we feel that in light of these local concerns regarding rise in infection rates and lack of information about the new strain of covid-19 we as school leaders need this additional time to ensure we have everything in place to keep all members of the school community as safe as possible before everyone returns. Of course, we would have preferred to make this decision earlier in order to give you more notice but due to the late notification to us as leaders this has not been possible.

Our priority as always is the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff and we hope that this additional time will allow us the thinking time needed to ensure we are responding to this situation in the safest way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for us and our staff.

Your co-operation in helping us to keep everyone safe is much appreciated.

The Workington Primary Heads Association

Ashfield Infant School, Ashfield Junior School, Beckstone Primary School, Derwent Vale Primary & Nursery School, Distington Community School, Northside School, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, St Michael's Infant & Nursery School, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Seaton Academy, Seaton St Paul's Junior School, Westfield Nursery & Primary School.