

Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs F Edmondson BEd Hons NPQH

23rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a fast changing situation. As I am sure you are aware, the government has forcibly closed pubs & restaurants as government scientists are stressing the need for social distancing to reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

Indeed, advice is now for people to stay at home wherever possible & when they aren't at home, to socially distance themselves by 2 metres which will clearly be difficult when looking after primary school children.

Cumbria is becoming a hot spot for the spread of the virus & the school needs to ensure that the safety of the pupils & staff is paramount. We need to ensure the risk of the virus spread is minimised through trying to reduce numbers & increasing distance between the pupils & also the staff.

As a result, we now really need to stress that sending your child(ren) to school has to be an ESSENTIAL need because you have no other alternative. We have also been told that we need proof from an employer that you are an essential worker. In addition, we hope you are aware that the government has said it will compensate people who now have to stay at home.

Do you still need childcare?

- If 'no', thank you for finding childcare elsewhere. We will be in touch when school is due to re-open. Teachers will keep in touch via Showbie or Tapestry. If you have any problems with this, please email admin@derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk & someone will get back to you.
- If 'yes', you will need to evidence the essential nature of your job. The childcare offer is only for the days/times which you are working & is not a daily entitlement.

Do you also need weekend & holiday cover? If so, which days? This must reflect shift patterns.

If parents are seen at places other than work whilst school staff are risking infection, then your child's place will be forfeited.

If you are taking up the childcare offer, this must be at **work times only**. Children should not be left in school whilst people do shopping on their way home etc. as early collection reduces numbers & therefore, risks.

For everyone's safety, if your child has a cough or a high temperature, they will be sent home. It is also of the utmost importance that if anyone in your household has a cough or a high temperature, your child DOES NOT come into school.

All children have to be dropped off by an adult who must wait with them until their name is called to enter the building at 9.30am & they must be collected promptly at 3pm. Failure to do this will result in forfeiting your child's place. School staff have been instructed to leave promptly to reduce their time in school.

Further information & strict guidelines will follow when available.

The offer of childcare is also subject to change if we do not have the staff ratios to offer safe childcare or government guidance changes which it appears to be doing daily. We will, of course, keep you informed & will text you when we are fully aware of staff & child numbers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs F Edmondson
Headteacher



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