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Dear Parents & Carers

I am writing to you as a follow up to the letter you received last night from Dan Barton, the Assistant Director of Education and Skills at Cumbria County Council. I would like to outline what these measures mean to us at Ashfield. Hopefully this will help to make things clearer.

- Parents meetings next week are now postponed until the Summer Term;
- Only essential visitors will be allowed to access the building- if you have a message for the office please do this via phone or email if possible;
- A drop box will be put in reception for you to put items in that you may have to bring to school e.g. forgotten PE kits or lunch boxes;
- Trips out of school will be postponed until further notice;
- Staff are being asked to wash hands on arrival at school;
- Door handles are being regularly sprayed and cleaned;
- The children are being reminded every day about washing hands and are being shown how to do this properly;
- We have suspended assemblies and are staggering lunch sittings as much as possible;
- All after school clubs are suspended from tomorrow;
- Lunch menus may have to change next week if there are issues around supply and stock of foods;
- Wrap around care will continue to run as normal before and after school;
- We are continuing swimming in Y4 as Swim England guidance states, 'The guidance we have received is that water and the chlorine within swimming pools will help to kill the virus. It's important, however, to ensure that everyone visiting pools follows the latest hygiene advice to help reduce the risk of infection.'

All of these measures are being taken to ensure the health and safety of the pupils and staff at this school.

Our attention is also on planning in the event of school closure. Teachers are preparing ways to communicate to you at home and provide work if we are closed during term time.



This will probably involve daily posts of work and tasks on the school website to provide a structure and some normality as much as possible. More information will follow on this if and when the time comes.

As you can imagine we are now beginning to see higher levels of staff absence as staff have to self-isolate following yesterday's government announcement. We will try our very best to keep school running as normal for as long as we can but it may be inevitable that some of our provision may need to close. If staffing issues hit the school kitchen we may also need to move to asking everyone to bring in a packed lunch if meals cannot be provided. Again, we will ensure that we communicate with you on a regular basis if anything changes.

As you will be aware this is a quickly changing, unprecedented issue to deal with and our actions are in response to Department for Education and Public Health England guidance. **Please ensure that your child remains at home if they or anyone else in the household are suffering from a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature. They must remain off school for 14 days.**

Finally, I would like to thank you for your co-operation and support at this challenging time. I appreciate that some difficult decisions are having to be made but it is important that in order to keep each other safe and well that we all stick to the advice and guidance provided.

Best wishes to you and your families, keep well.

Mrs Frost
Headteacher