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16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **COVID-19 UPDATE No 11**

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope that you all continue to be well.

Following last week's announcement that all children will not be returning to primary school before the summer holiday we know that there are now going to be many children that we will potentially not see again until after the summer break. We knew that this announcement would come as we do not physically have the room or the staff in school to have all children in small 'bubbles' but even though it was inevitable it was still very sad to have it confirmed. Rest assured we will keep up the focus on home learning over the coming weeks so that those children remaining at home still get the best quality teacher input that we can provide.

As each week goes on we are reviewing our practice and looking for ways to keep things working as well as we can. Your feedback as parents is really useful to us so we can ensure that we are supporting you. Please contact us at school if you are struggling with anything or need some extra support or resources. It is easy for us to pick up the phone for a chat or bring some resources to your house.

This week has seen the return to school of some of our children in Y6. At the moment we have 32 children who have opted to return with a few more joining us each week over the next couple of weeks. Under current guidelines we have the capacity to accommodate 44 Y6 pupils spread over four groups.

We now have 24 children using our critical worker and priority provision across Y3, Y4 and Y5. We have the capacity to take 11 in each of these three groups and the Y4 group is now full with 7 in the Y3 group and 6 in the Y5 group.

If the current social distancing guidelines remain in place then we will not be able to take any more children into school this term once these groups are full.



We have arranged our staffing in school so that support staff can supervise the groups at times during the school day to allow teachers the time to plan and give feedback on home learning. As I'm sure you will appreciate this is quite challenging at times but your positive feedback and words of support and encouragement constantly help boost our morale and spur us on to do our best for you and your children.

If guidelines change then we will be reviewing the possibility of having some face to face time towards the end of term with those pupils who have not been able to return.

**If you are a critical worker of a pupil in Y3 or Y5 and you would like your children to attend school please contact me at [head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk) before the end of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June in order to arrange a place for next week (wb 22<sup>nd</sup> June). At the end of this letter is the current updated list of critical workers from gov.uk. You need to contact me each week to confirm places for each following week. The school day for these groups is 8:45am-3:15pm.**

**If you are parent or carer of a Y6 pupil then please can you email me at [head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk) by the end of Thursday 18th June if you would like your child to attend school in the Y6 groups from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The school day for Y6 is 9:00am-3:30pm.**

Our attention is also turning to our transition arrangements for the new pupils who will be joining us in Y3 in September. We are working closely with the Infant schools at the moment to gather information about the pupils and next week we will make contact with everyone and begin forming links over the rest of the half term. We will be reviewing the possibility of having some face to face time with pupils and parents before the end of term. We do not know if this will be possible but it is something that we will keep under review. In Y6 we are also liaising closely with the secondary schools to develop plans for remote transition activities over the next few weeks.

We have now also begun to think about September and how life in school may have to change. At the moment we have received no further guidance about what the new term may have to look like but there are already some things that we know we will keep in place- individual stationery packs, sanitiser stations around school and increased handwashing regimes. At the moment we are planning for everyone returning to school but clearly this is subject to change depending on how things develop over the next two months and what the government and scientific guidance says at the time. I think we will definitely need to consider the transition needs of our new Y3s first and foremost when we return after the summer break.

This continues to be a period of uncertainty and change. Throughout it all we have tried to keep things as calm, organised and 'normal' as we can. We have tried to keep AJS running



as it would do if we were in the building and keeping us all still together as a school community is vitally important to that. As the term progresses and moves towards it's end we are thinking of having some time to develop a whole school project in order for us all to come together in a shared task that can be completed by those children both at home and in the building. We feel that this would be a great way to end what has been an extraordinary school year and would give everyone the chance to celebrate our fantastic achievements. More information will follow in a couple of weeks time.

In the meantime keep up the fantastic work! Let's keep supporting each other to get through these next few weeks of term. If there is anything that you need from us then just let us know. I know I have said it before but I am so proud of the way our school community has stuck together throughout this situation. Thank you for your support.

Your sincerely

Mrs S Frost  
Headteacher

#### **Current critical worker list from gov.uk:**

##### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

##### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach

##### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system



- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms-length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

### **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:



- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors