

Cumbria Academy for Autism
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Dear Parents

Now that we have officially entered a second lockdown we wanted to communicate with you and let you know of our ongoing plans and Risk Assessments in place to keep your child and all of our pupils and staff as safe as possible.

Although we remain open, we would like to remind you of the following:

- We are still one bubble of 40 pupils and 25 staff. Our two corridor layout, transport and split of facilities and key staff makes it detrimental to the pupil's education and environment to split further.
- Please do not send your child in sick during lockdown; this increases other pupil's anxieties as well as staff's. Please help us to keep the school open by reducing the chance of spreading any sickness and illness that may or may not be Covid related in children.
- PPE is provided to staff and encouraged to be used to keep everyone safe and less at risk.
- Face masks can be worn by your child if they want too, this is also acceptable on school transport.
- Social distancing is in place to reduce risk. We try to maintain the 2 metre distance between staff and pupils where possible, however due to our children's individual needs, this is not always possible.
- On arrival to school and also on exit, the children are asked to sanitise their hands.
 Handwashing is actively encouraged during the day.
- School visitors have been be reduced to just educational staff. Parents and visitors will be kept off site where possible, however we appreciate there may be exceptions (for example, if a child needs picked up from school).
- Meetings with parents will be by phone or virtually.
- If you drop off and collect your child at school, please stay at your car and we will bring the pupils to you maintaining social distance.

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We will be keeping our classrooms well ventilated, encouraging windows and doors to be
open, where safely possible. We would suggest sending an extra layer in with your child, just
in case.

A lot of other schools have now had cases of Covid; luckily we have not had any confirmed cases yet. The more vigilant we are, the longer we can remain open. At some point it is likely we will have to close due to an active case and "bubble burst". If this does happen, our whole school will therefore close and our class teachers will be in touch to co-ordinate work for home / remote learning. Also, if we have a situation where we do not have enough staff to open the school and keep the pupils safe, we may also have to consider closing individual classes / the school. We are, however, working hard to stop this from happening. Please help us by reassuring your children that they are safe in school, as we are doing everything that we can to mitigate and control the risks.

I very much hope we get to Christmas and out of lockdown so that we all can enjoy time with our families, safe and well. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Aindow Head Teacher