

25 March 2020



**Headteacher:**

Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move into the third day of our school being closed to all students other than vulnerable students or the children of Key Workers, I need to update you on an important change to this provision.

We have had a limited requirement for emergency childcare provision, with a small number on Monday, one yesterday and none today. We have sought guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Local Authority (LA) and have been advised to **close our school from today, Wednesday 25 March 2020 until further notice**. We will be monitoring all advice and guidance in the meantime and will re-evaluate the requirements for Tuesday 14 April 2020 onwards. I am grateful to the staff who came into school this week, and to those who have volunteered to offer support over the Easter break if required.

As demand for emergency childcare is predominantly for primary age children, the LA has decided to move to a hub model based around these provisions. It is likely that our local hub will be at Fairfield School; further information about how this will be set up should be circulated later today. We will be working with colleagues at the hub to determine the level of support required from our staff so that any children of Key Workers who usually attend Cockermouth School will be supported by a member of our school staff.

We have received feedback from some of our students regarding the work that has been, and continues to be, set by their teachers and overwhelmingly this is now working well following the challenges that the whole nation seemed to face on Monday due to so many trying to access resources online. As explained in the letter to you last Friday, your child's form tutor will be sending regular messages to ask 'How are you?' and I would encourage you all to remind your children that it is crucial that they respond to this message so that we can give additional support where it is necessary.

Some parents have been in touch with specific, individual queries regarding Firefly tasks and some have been concerned about tasks not being completed. Please ask your child to contact the individual teacher about the task they are struggling with via Firefly so that a prompt and specific response can be given.

Sadly, as if families don't have enough to contend with at present, we have been advised that there is a scam email doing the rounds that appears to be from the Department for Education. It invites parents of students eligible for Free School Meals to send their bank details so that funding for these can be put straight into bank accounts. If any of you should receive one of these emails, please immediately delete it. There are no plans to change the way support is given for Free School Meals, but if this changes, we will communicate this information to you through school.

Our children have demonstrated so many times during my time as Headteacher that they are strong, resilient and determined. They have faced floods, bereavements, challenges and pressures, but with your support, and that of our dedicated staff, I believe our students will continue to grow into fine adults despite adversity and a threat that has never been faced in our lifetime. Thank you for working with us to achieve this.

I hope you are all staying well and safe.

Yours sincerely

**Dr R P Petrie**  
Headteacher

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