



Tuesday, 5 January 2021.

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know because of the high level of Covid cases locally and the increase transmission on the new variant virus and following the new lockdown Government directive, school will now not be fully open until at least after February half term. This closure is common across the country.

From Wednesday 6th January 2021, all learning will revert to being online via Seesaw and Tapestry. Your child's class teacher will be in daily contact via these platforms and will be setting work daily. If your child is eligible for free school meals the school has access to free data SIM cards for you to use in a mobile device. Please contact school if you would require a SIM card. Free school meal children will receive weekly food vouchers for this period. If you are struggling with the online learning, please contact the school and we will supply paper copies.

In line with Government policy, the school is able to offer places to the children of critical workers and children identified as vulnerable according to Government guidance.

To minimise risk of Covid spread and illness at this time we would like to keep numbers of pupils in school to **a minimum** in order to keep children, families, staff and the community safe. We can offer places to children of critical workers but we would request that these are only taken where there is no alternative childcare provision and only taken on the days you are away from your home. Please be aware that children may need to be mixed in different bubbles and potentially not with their full friendship group. In order to prevent virus spread, we would ask that no items can be brought to and from school e.g no book bags and no packed lunches therefore all children will need to have a school meal.

On the following pages of this letter is a list of identified critical workers. If your job is listed and wish to have a place please can you email criticalworker@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk by **12.00pm tomorrow (Tuesday, 5th January 2021)**. On the email please state which category of critical worker you are, who you work for and the days you are working away from home and would require a school place. We apologise for the short timescale but the school has to be reorganised and catering contractors etc. have to be informed by 9.00am Wednesday. Any places offered will be until February half term. It is hoped school will open again after this date but this will be dependent on advice from Public Health, Education Unions and CCC and Central Government. We the school will keep you informed at all times.

Please note that your child's temperature will be taken as they enter school and if it is over 37.8 or they have or develop any of these symptoms: a new continuous cough (described as a new cough that has lasted an hour or 3 or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours or are coughing more than usual) or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste then they will be sent home. We will be asking all families who have children sent home to provide evidence of a negative Coronavirus test before sending their child in otherwise there is need for isolation for 10 days.

In addition all children, irrespective of age, have to be dropped off by ONE ADULT who must ensure procedures are followed at the start and end of the day.



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Please be reassured that we continue to do our utmost to make the school environment as safe as possible for our pupils and our staff and will be following all guidance we receive but we cannot guarantee the elimination of all risk.

Please can all families adhere to the Tier 4 guidelines that are reproduced in the January newsletter.

We realise how challenging these times are for us all. Thank you for your support and understanding whilst we do our best to keep the school community safe.

Kindest regards,

David Warbrick
Headteacher

Critical Worker List

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 coronavirus (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 coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- 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 and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure 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 coronavirus (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