

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

Mrs L Batey - Headteacher



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14th January 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: School Opening and Learning during Lockdown 3.0

Following a governors meeting yesterday, we write to you in response to the current lockdown and to clarify the opening of schools for children of critical workers.

Firstly, may we thank you for the support and exceptional understanding of the pressures on School at this time. We in turn, Governors and staff, are very aware of the difficulties that the Pandemic is causing to many people, and to our families and our own school children. We also want to thank you for the wonderful attendance at Class live online learning sessions, nearly 100%, and for the efforts that you are all putting in to support your child's continuing education. Remote learning is now statutory and so we will continue to support you to achieve full engagement in all aspects of the learning provided.

This week there has been a further increase in local data for covid-19 and there have been developments regarding the opening of schools for children of critical workers. You may well be aware that Colin Cox, Direction of Public Health for Cumbria, has sent a message out urging parents to keep their children at home if possible as the infection rates are extremely high in our area at the moment. He said last weekend that:

"our primary strategic focus at the moment is the preservation of life. This means that measures taken to restrict movement, contact and community transmission are a priority."

Alongside this, the Cumbria County Council Local Authority has urged schools to consider ways to reduce the number of pupils and staff in schools by using the following matrix:

In Cumbria, we are asking Head Teachers to prioritise vulnerable children first, and within that cohort, those open to social care, followed by those with an EHCP. Beyond this, children of colleagues whose work is directly life saving or critical to health care (NHS frontline, care homes and domiciliary care).

In light of all of this, and with a duty of care to all children, families and staff, we write to ask all parents to consider their need for their children to attend school at this moment in time. We would like to reassure you that Shankhill's provision for vulnerable children and those of critical workers remains available 9am - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday. However, **children should only attend when their parents are at work** classed as 'critical work'. Shankhill is not open as normal, and children are not expected to attend for five full days. What we ask is for parents to consider:

- Does your child require a place in school when you are working or can you work from home and have your child remain safely at home with you?

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019

Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018



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- How does your work fit into the priorities set by the LA? Are you an essential critical worker? If your role is essential then we will of course, where possible, continue to offer a place to meet your working needs/shift patterns, etc., and would encourage only using school when you are out of home at work.
- Can you reduce the hours / days in school, or keep your child safely at home with you to access remote learning?

Teachers and pupils are finding that the new statutory remote learning is working well, and is easily accessible. Attendance at live Zoom lessons is improving so much that we hope to find the capacity to increase live lesson teaching and learning over the coming weeks. This lockdown has at least four more weeks, then we stop for half term.

We trust that this letter does not increase the pressures on parents, and reiterate that Shankhill's provision for vulnerable children and those of critical workers remains available 9am - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday. However, **children should only attend when their parents are at work** classed as 'critical work'. Shankhill is not open as normal, and children are not expected to attend for five full days.

As ever, you can contact Mrs Batey at head@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk

We, again, thank you all for your support during this time. Stay safe!

Yours sincerely



Lynnsey Batey
Head Teacher and Shankhill Board of Governors