

St Pius X Catholic Primary School

& Little Lambs Nursery



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Headteacher: Mr Kevin McGoldrick

Monday, 04 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following lengthy discussions with staff, governors and the local authority, we are writing to inform you that school will remain closed until at least **Monday 11th January 2021**. From Tuesday 5th January, we will move to remote learning, but will be offering limited places for vulnerable pupils and children of Critical Workers. Children will remain in year group bubbles and we will be setting a limit of ten pupils per year group to allow for social distancing.

We understand that this will create frustration and put many of our families in an unfortunate position. However, this decision has been difficult and has not been made lightly. As always, our intention is to keep our pupils, staff and our families as safe as we possibly can. This, in turn, helps to protect the wider community.

This weekend saw:

- Unions advising staff that in the current climate, with uncertainty around the new strain of Covid19 and rising rates, primary schools may not be safe.
- Staff in different unions were advised not to attend school, but to provide remote learning.
- Cumbria County Council wrote to the Government to request that primary schools in Cumbria should be closed due to concerns regarding rising rates in the area.
- The Government refused this request yesterday. However, Cumbria County Council are asking this to be reviewed again this week.
- Director of Public Health for Cumbria Colin Cox, speaking yesterday, said it was Cumbria's darkest day for infection rates and fears worse is yet to come.

The following link highlights that the Ormsgill and Hindpool neighbourhood currently has one of highest number of cases in the local area (<https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/coronavirus-in-your-area>). A screenshot can be seen at the end of this letter.

A full list of criteria for Critical Workers can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. If you believe your child is eligible for a place, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/QQeS3vnYrwmVXg7H7>. Parents of vulnerable pupils will be contacted directly by Mrs Hurley. However, we would encourage you to keep your child at home wherever possible. If your child is

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allocated a place at school, we ask that families adhere to Government guidelines outside of school. If we are presented with any evidence of any family breaking the rules, the child's place will be withdrawn.

Remote learning will be in place for all children and those in school will be completing the same work as their peers working from home. It is vital that all children engage in remote learning. If you are having any difficulty accessing this, please let us know so we can help in any way.

Packed lunches can be ordered and collected from school for those that are eligible for Universal and Infant Free Schools Meals or Free School Meals. A packed lunch can be ordered for children attending school or they may bring their own packed lunch.

We are eager to welcome all children back into school when it is deemed safe to do so by Public Health Cumbria and we will keep you updated of any decisions made. I apologise for the last minute changes. However, all decisions are made in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and the wider community.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr Kevin McGoldrick
Headteacher

Mr David Gallagher
Chair of Governors

Neighbourhood	Cases	Cases per 100K popn.
Orsmgill & Hindpool, Cumbria	21	324
Hawcoat & Furness Abbey, Cumbria	10	133
Parkside, Cumbria	23	349
Walney Island North, Cumbria	22	326
Barrow Central, Cumbria	9	137
Abbotsmead & Salthouse, Cumbria	5	67
Dalton South, Cumbria	12	216