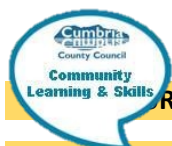




You may have seen media reports overnight and this morning that Public Health Cumbria have issued new covid advice to schools. Cases rates in Cumbrian schools now exceed infection rates seen at any point in the pandemic to date. **PH Cumbria now advise that siblings of positive cases DO self-isolate and that they have a PCR test after 3-5 days before returning.**



COMMUNITY LEARNING

RSE 1: KS1 – SPaG 101 For: Year R, 1,2 & 3 parents

Starts: Monday 27th September TIME: 1:30-3:15; 5 weeks

We are looking forward to welcoming parents for the first of this year's courses, led by Janette from Cumbria Community Learning. Janette will work with adults until 2:45, when your child will join you for the last half hour for some practical activities.

<https://bit.ly/FIRKS1SPAG>

END OF DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The staggered end times seem to be making traffic slightly better than previously and it is lovely to see parents able to chat at pick-up time again.

A gentle reminder though, that once staff have returned your child(ren) to you, or another collecting adult, they become **your** responsibility. That includes liability for any accidental damage or injury caused to themselves or others.

They should **not** be allowed on the playtrail and **should** be kept under close supervision please.

MESSAGING APP NOW LIVE

Our Scholarpack messaging/data app is now live. The app uses your mobile number and a unique login. You should have had envelopes with details of this for any contacts with parental responsibility earlier this week. Feedback from early adopters has been good.

With around 40% of parents registered, it's already helped us to make useful updates to our records of allergies, GP details and parent email addresses after their first logins.



ScholarPack Parents

ScholarPack

FOR [APPLE DEVICES](#) FOR [ANDROID DEVICES](#)

NEWS AND CALENDAR APP

We will continue to use the website app, School Jotter, for routine newsletters, calendar events and general notices – this allows us to publish to the website and app simultaneously. Please remember to turn alerts on to get the 'pings'.



School Jotter

FOR [ANDROID DEVICES](#) FOR [APPLE DEVICES](#)

If you are unable to access the apps on at least one device at home, please advise the office so that we can arrange suitable alternatives (i.e email, phone calls or paper copies) instead. We will be trialling simpler email contact for each KS1&2 class shortly too.

GOVERNOR UPDATE: This year, the role of chair will be shared by Mrs Catherine Carroll and Mr Sutherland Smith, with Mrs Rebekah Marston as vice-chair.

Following the recent invitation for parents to join the Governing Board, they are pleased to welcome Sarah Loughrey as a new parent governor.

The GB now has the option to select a parent governor as well as co-opted and partnership governors, who can be drawn from or beyond the school community to bring specific skills to the board. If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the board, or are interested yourself and missed the recent opportunity, please contact the Clerk, Roz Dempsey, by email to Clerk@fir-ends.cumbria.sch.uk



NHS HOME COVID TESTS

remain available through the school. Simply order via this form and we'll send them home with your nominated child.

<https://bit.ly/FIR-LFD-ORDER>

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

The gathering and redistribution of pre-loved uniform has kindly been taken on by Jane McGuigan. If you need uniform items, you can get in touch with her by email at janemcguiganptffe@gmail.com or via PTFE Facebook page.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Heidi (who took photos for Tempest some years ago) will be here to take individual and sibling photos on Friday 1st October.

As Friday is 'PE DAY' please send children wearing normal polo and jumpers on their top half that day, with their PE shirts/hoodies in bags.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL

1: SUSPECTED COVID SYMPTOMS (NEW PERSISTENT COUGH; FEVER ABOVE 37.8°; CHANGES TO SENSES)

Anybody with these symptoms should stay away from school and go to the airport for a PCR test. They should remain isolated until results are received.

2: GENERAL ILLNESS

Particularly in the first day(s) of an illness, children should be considered **unfit** for school and kept at home. This means poorly children don't have to struggle through a long day, and helps to avoid **spreading** illness to others.

Contact school by 9:30am and **explain the symptoms or diagnosis**. We will advise if there is a **specific exclusion** period for that illness. If there is no specific period advised, children should return when they feel better.

3: 'POSSIBLE' COVID SYMPTOMS/CLOSE CONTACT TESTING

The range of symptoms associated with childhood covid is now quite long. They don't always get the 'big three'.

Parents may arrange **precautionary PCR tests** if they suspect that their child has been **around people they don't usually mix** with, has had **close contact** with a positive case outside the family or has **symptoms** that are unusual. If they don't have covid symptoms, they don't need to isolate before results.

PLAYTRAIL PROGRESS

Children have enthusiastically circled the playground for their sponsored miles challenge this week. We look forward to finding out what their efforts have raised.

We are also thrilled to have been offered a substantial donation from the Hallburn Windfarm Fund; subject to grant conditions and with six months to complete.

