



Lindale CE Primary School

School Hill

Lindale

Grange-over-Sands

Cumbria

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Inspiring our children

13.04.20

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well and managed to have the best Easter that you could in the current circumstances. Hopefully the Easter Bunny realised he was a Key Worker!

It seems very strange and sad that we are not all returning to school tomorrow, and has made me realise even more the importance of our school as a community for children, parents and staff. Whilst we can send work home, it's all the other things about school; playtimes, dropping off and picking up, trips, lunches and assemblies.... that are memorable and important parts of school life for the children. We are all missing you and I am sure the children are also finding it hard not returning to school and seeing staff and friends.

Now that term has started again, I would suggest trying if possible to get your child into a routine of schoolwork each day along the lines that teachers suggested at the beginning. However, I know from having my own children that is easier with some children than others! The teachers are finding ways of communicating with classes (see below) and so they will be able to set some expectations of schoolwork. Before the holidays we sent some folders of work home and links to on-line learning. Children will have worked at different rates through these and over the next couple of days individual teachers will be contacting you to talk about learning for this term. Teachers will also be letting you know about an app called 'Seesaw' which will enable children to share work with the teacher and with classmates. Some parents have been emailing photos to teachers and they are keen to keep in touch with you either via email or 'Tapestry' for Early Years. Miss Massey says a big thank you to parents who are already uploading to Tapestry.

Not having school is tough for children and it is also difficult for them to really understand what's going on so there may be some anxiety. It is hard that we cannot give them answers about when it will all be normal again. You may see more refusal, meltdowns and oppositional behaviour – this is normal and expected under these circumstances. So, please don't worry if you feel like some days your child doesn't achieve much – sometimes you will need to know when to call it a day and do sometime creative, go outside or just chill! If you are at all concerned about how your child is coping emotionally with the situation there is help available <https://www.youngminds.org.uk> has useful information. You can also contact the School Nurse <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19/>. If you cannot get the help you require, please email me directly and I will contact appropriate professionals on your behalf.

As you know, our school is being used as a 'Hub School' for the local area for parents of key workers who do not have other suitable childcare. We are able to take children aged from 2 to 11 years old.



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Coleman

Email: head@lindale.cumbria.sch.uk or admin@lindale.cumbria.sch.uk

If in the next few weeks you fall into that category, you can book childcare between 8.30am and 5.30pm using the link. <https://grangehub.youcanbook.me>

Our hub school is being staffed by teachers and support staff from across the Cartmel Cluster. Strict cleaning and safety protocols are in place and the school will be thoroughly cleaned before all the pupils return to school.

This is obviously also a very challenging time financially for some people and it is possible that we may have parents who were previously not entitled to free school meals but now are. If you have lost your job or have other circumstances that may qualify please apply online. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
If you do meet the criteria, school will be notified and will be able to send you supermarket vouchers for each child who you have applied for each week. You can apply for children from the beginning of their Reception year.

Looking forward, it is difficult to guess at this stage when we will return and despite having daily updates from Cumbria and the DFE, there is nothing to indicate that it will happen soon. Teachers and support staff are working hard, not only producing work for children now, but also planning for when the children do return. Please remember that we are here for you. Please feel that you can email your child's teacher at any point if you would like to. I will keep you updated with any developments and plans for school.

For parents of children in Year 2 and Year 6, you will have probably heard that there will be no SATs tests this year and no formal teacher assessment submitted to the DFE. We have ongoing assessment in school and so we will be able to let secondary schools know children's achievements and expected levels.

If I can leave you with one thing, it would be please try not to worry about the impact this situation will have on your children. Children who are loved and secure are pretty resilient. Learning missed now will be caught up and teachers are already planning for that. I saw an interesting article the other day about some of the positives that can happen.... time to listen to the birds, making daisy chains, finding out the names of trees (have a look at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/nature-detectives/>) talking about what it was like for mum or dad when they were little, baking a cake.... Remember you were always your child's first teacher and you know your child best.

Thinking of you all and praying you stay safe and well.

Sarah Coleman

Mrs S. Coleman
Headteacher



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