

We hope that you are all doing well in these uncertain times and that your family and friends are safe. These are unprecedented times for us all, but we want to make sure that we are doing everything we can as a school to reassure you. This is definitely not the Summer Term that any of us had hoped for. Our children had made so much progress in school – we were incredibly proud of the way they had all settled in and the way that they were approaching daily school life. The one thing we can guarantee for you, is that on return to school, our dedicated staff will ensure they do everything they can to make sure that your children settle back into their daily routine and continue to be happy and make progress in our school environment.

In the meantime, we hope that this newsletter will answer some of the questions you may have.

Home Schooling

School closure is likely to lead to a lapse in children's learning and progress. However, this is a national, even international issue and children across the world are all in the same position.

As a school, we will not (unless directed to by the Government) be conducting online/video lessons. Teachers will be in touch with each family on a weekly basis, just for a chat with yourselves and also so that they can speak to the children. We think that this will be incredibly important for our children, helping them to stay familiar with our staff members. Some teachers are also trying to facilitate a video call with the children where possible, but staff will speak to you about this through email or when they call.

We recommend that, as a minimum, the children continue to read and do some maths based activities daily. This may simply be in the form of TT Rockstars or online maths games. In addition to this, please take advantage of being at home with your child and engage in the things that children love to do - cook, play outside, play board games, get crafty and explore nature on your daily walk.

We completely understand the challenges of getting children motivated and engaged in home learning – it is not easy! Please do not worry or stress about covering every task set, allow your child to have some choice in which activities they wish to do.

Tapestry and Seesaw

Please do continue to upload photos and videos to Tapestry (primary) or Seesaw (secondary) so that staff can feedback to the children where necessary and hopefully keep them motivated. It also makes us very happy as we miss them all incredibly.

Cool Milk

Just before the school closed, our admin team had successfully established a partnership with Cool Milk. This was to give all children the opportunity to order milk as a drink throughout the day, if they so wished. This would work very much like the school meals, you would order in advance for the week ahead. Although this is on hold at present, we hope to have this up and running when the children return to school.

Free School Meals

Mrs Ewing has worked hard this week to ensure that all families who are eligible for FSM, have received their e-vouchers via email. If you have any problems at all, please contact Mrs Ewing at l.ewing@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk and she will endeavour to solve any issues.

If you think that you may be eligible for FSM, particularly at these times, please visit the Cumbria County Council Link at <https://cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandle>

On a sad note...

We would like to take this opportunity to pay our respects to John Head, who sadly died two weeks ago after contracting Coronavirus. John was a member of the Rotary Club in Workington and had been working with Mrs Kirkbride, securing funding for our children to buy some scooters, delivering books for our primary children at Christmas time and organising a trip out for our youngest children in the Summer Term. He was kind, compassionate and dedicated, and we feel fortunate that we were lucky enough to have him supporting us over the last 6 months. We would like to send our sincere condolences to his family and friends at this time.

Safeguarding

On the final page of this newsletter, please find attached the latest safeguarding advice and information, distributed by Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns about a child, you can contact the numbers on the leaflet, or otherwise contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Stuart at k.stuart@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk or Mrs Kirkbride, Deputy Safeguarding Lead at s.kirkbride@cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk.

What now... when will school reopen?

At the moment, the school continues to work with the County Council and other Special Schools in the County, seeking guidance on how best to progress with regards to schools reopening. Currently, we are following the national movement where we are encouraging children to stay at home if this is at all possible, as this is where they are safest. If and when this situation changes, we will notify you and let you know what the arrangements will be. We miss the children and want them back in school as soon as possible, but must ensure that it is safe for the children and the staff before this happens.

If you need to get in touch with us regarding anything to do with school life or safeguarding, please don't hesitate to email us. We will respond as soon as we possibly can

Uniform

At the moment, our supplier, Border Embroideries are closed and are not shipping any orders. If you are thinking about uniform orders over the next few weeks, ready for the start of the academic year, you will be able to order items, but the garments will not be produced or shipped until the company is officially up and running again. If you wish to keep an eye on this situation, the website is:

www.border-embroideries.co.uk

Classes for September.

One of the questions that we have been asked by several parents, is regarding the organisation of classes for September if this current situation continues, and also who might be their child's class teacher in the new academic year.

At the moment, we do not have any definitive answers for you. Prior to the closure of the school, Mr Aindow had been visiting children who would hopefully be joining the school in September. Once we have confirmation from the County Council that these children will be coming to us, we can then look at organisation of classes and staff.

We are also aware that this unexpected time off school may cause problems for some of our students and they may take some time to adapt to coming back to school. All we can do is assure you that we will continue to assess the situation, take into account the needs of the individuals, and make appropriate plans to ensure they transition to the next academic years as smoothly as possible. We will always update you when we have any further information regarding this.

[In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.](#)

Staying Safe

safeguarding adults at risk
a cumbria partnership

We want to make sure that people are safe in their communities.

Here are some things to think about if you are offered, or need, support during this time.



Try to use existing and trusted community groups. If not, could a family member, friend or neighbour who you know and trust help?



Not sure? Don't answer the door.

If you're not sure about an offer of help, ask the person to leave details and talk to someone you trust about it.



Contact us

If you are concerned that an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect please call:

Copeland and Allerdale 0300 303 3589

Carlisle and Eden 0300 303 3249

Furness and South Lakes 0300 303 2704

Out of Hours 01228 526690

In an emergency, call 999

For concerns about a child, report to:
cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk

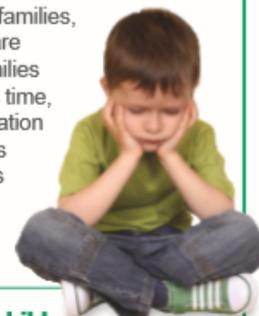
Cumbria Safeguarding
Children Partnership



Are you concerned about a child?

We are all living in unprecedented times, it is really important that we look out for each other and support each other in our communities.

This will be a difficult time for lots of families, and they may be making different care arrangements for their children. Families may experience added stress at this time, with added financial pressure or isolation from support networks. These issues can add a great burden onto families and children and young people could be at increased risk of harm during these times.



If you are concerned about a child or young person who you believe might be at risk of harm, please contact:

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on
0333 240 1727 or NSPCC 0800 800 5000.



If you believe a child is at risk of immediate danger dial 999 and speak to the Police.



cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk

Domestic Abuse Support Services Cumbria during COVID-19

To report: **Cumbria police non-emergency call 101** or online www.cumbria.police.uk, in an emergency always call 999

No one should suffer domestic abuse.

If you are at risk or experiencing abuse help and support is available.
For more information contact:

LOCAL

Safety Net

for women and men affected by Domestic Abuse.

t: 01228 515859

e: office@safetynet.org

Gateway 4 Women (Carlisle)

t: 01228 212090

e: admin@cumbriagateway.co.uk

co.uk

Women Out West (Whitehaven)

t: 01946 550103

e: contactus@womenoutwest.co.uk

co.uk

Women Community Matters (Barrow)

t: 01229 311102

e: reception@womenscommunitymatters.org

CUMBRIA

Cumbria Victim Support

t: 0300 3030 157 (local)

Mon-Fri 9-6pm and 24/7 Support

Line 0808 1689 111

e: Cumbria.Admin@victimsupport.org.uk

victimsupport.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Partnerships

Emergency accommodation

Allerdale t: 01900 702660

Copeland t: 01946 598300

Barrow t: 01229 876599

South Lakes t: 01539 733333

Carlisle t: 01228 817079

Eden t: 01768 817817

NATIONAL

LGBT Domestic Abuse Victims

t: 0800 9995428

Mankind Initiative

t: 01823 334244 and

Men's Advice Line

0808 8010327

National Child Line

t: 0800 1111

safer Cumbria

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPORT HELPLINE

Only for people at high risk of becoming seriously ill as a result of COVID-19, who do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours and are struggling for food, medicines or other essential supplies.

Call: **0800 783 1966**
or email: **COVID19support@cumbria.gov.uk**

Full details can be found online at
cumbria.gov.uk

Provided by Cumbria County Council and partners including District Councils, CVS, Cumbria Community Foundation, community and voluntary sector, and private sector.



SUPPORT EACH OTHER
#TogetherWeCan