

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We have continued to assess the situation with regards to the given advice regarding the Coronavirus and would like to update you with how we will now move forward as a school.

Today, an email from Cumbria County Council went out to confirm that all Special Schools in the county would be closing from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Although we are a Free-School Academy, we believe also that this is the correct action moving forward. As things progress, we are now in a situation that more and more of our children are being kept in self-isolation, mainly due to symptoms experienced by family members, but also because those closest to them have underlying medical conditions.

It is incredibly important to all of us at Cumbria Academy for Autism that we prioritise the well-being of the children in our school, and although as a staff we have sufficient numbers to safely run the school, this is an ever-changing situation and we also need to ensure that the well-being of our staff is treated with the utmost importance too. School will therefore be open tomorrow (Wednesday), but closed thereafter, until we have further information to support reopening.

We will be sending out more information to you all throughout the next 24 hours, detailing relevant information and also how you can access resources and learning for your children during this period of time out of school. Please look out for updates on our school website too.

I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding in this situation. If you have any questions or concerns, please phone the school office tomorrow and I will be happy to speak to you regarding them.

Yours sincerely,

*S.Kirkbride*

Sarah Kirkbride

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Deputy Head Teacher

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[www.cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaacademyforautism.org.uk)

