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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Emma Pomfret

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Start of Spring Term 2021**

I'm sure you will have heard the Prime Minister's statement this evening announcing school closures until February half term. Therefore, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I have to inform you that Dent CE School will not reopen as planned tomorrow. This is not what any of us want for the start of the new year and it certainly isn't the way I would have chosen to start being your new HT!

We will now need to begin the preparation for providing school places for Key Worker and Vulnerable children in school. We will be planning to start providing this from Wednesday to those who need it. As before Key worker and vulnerable places will be available on an essential need basis and if no other child care is possible. If you think your child(ren) may qualify for either a Key worker or vulnerable place, please email me directly by 12noon tomorrow (Tuesday) to allow us time to plan for this – [head@dent.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@dent.cumbria.sch.uk)

Up to now, staff have been preparing for classroom learning from tomorrow so they will now move to online learning which will commence on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb to give staff chance to switch over. As I mentioned in my previous letter this afternoon, happiness and safety are a priority but there is now an expectation that children will engage with the remote learning we provide. It was evident in the last lockdown that the children who engaged in the remote learning made good progress, many maintained their academic position and sadly the gap widened for those children who did not access the remote learning provided. Staff will be using Seesaw for KS1 and 2 and Tapestry for the Reception children. If you are struggling with devices or internet connection issues, please let us know ASAP and we will do what we can to help.

Please remember that, if you or any of your family experience any of the main Covid-19 symptoms (cough, loss of taste or smell or high temperature) immediately book a test. It is far better to book a test and have a negative result and peace of mind than not book one. Please also keep us informed if you have any positive cases.

We remain here to help as best we can, this is a very difficult situation for everyone but please do not feel alone. A problem shared is a problem halved. We are regularly sent emails with support that is available across the county for anyone struggling in anyway so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need anything at all and if we cannot help we may be able to signpost you to someone who can help.

It is going to be a busy few days getting things organised in both schools for me and I'm sure there will be further communications to come but once things settle down a little I will aim to give you all a call to say hello to you and your children and see if there is anything I can help with.

If you have any questions then please feel free to get in touch. As we will be working remotely a lot of the time the best way to get hold of me is probably by email and I will either email or call you back.

Once again I would like to express my deepest regret and sincere apologies for the situation we find ourselves in. I am also really sorry that it is going to take me longer to get to know you all than I had anticipated.

Take care of yourselves.

Emma

Mrs Emma Pomfret  
Executive Headteacher  
Dent CE Primary School