



**Alston Moor Federation**  
**Alston Primary School**  
**Nenthead Primary School**  
**Samuel King's School**

**Working Together – Achievement For All**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following last night's announcement you will realise that all three of our schools will be closed until further notice, at the end of the school day tomorrow. The GCSE exams will not be taking place, neither will SATs for children in Years 2 and 6. We do not know currently when we will be re-opening.

This is an unprecedented situation and is one that will continue to develop as we learn more. I will continue to keep everyone updated as more information comes through from Cumbria County Council.

For your information:

- The School Office will be open during mornings next week to take phone calls and respond to emails. We want to be available to answer your concerns wherever possible. Please do not arrive at our Church Road entrance though and expect to be allowed to come in as the building will be closed.
- Work will be set for all children on a daily basis. Teachers have been asked to set work for all of the lessons that they would have taught that day. Office staff will put this on our website by 10am each day. All staff email addresses will be on the website. Please feel able to contact staff in this way but please copy in Sally Timmons as well on [stimmons@alston.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:stimmons@alston.cumbria.sch.uk)
- Cumbria County Council are working on a plan for providing some sort of provision for vulnerable children (LAC / Children with SEND / EHCPs / Children with social workers) and the children of 'frontline workers'. At present the Government have not defined what they mean by frontline workers but they have asked all parents who need support in this area to complete the online form sent out yesterday.

It would be very easy for students of all ages to switch off and do no work at all. Please do everything you can to make sure that this does not happen. Teacher assessment for the GCSE grades and SATs may require additional evidence of work completed and while school is closed, time is passing and children and young adults will be expected to pick up and perform at the required standards when they do eventually come back into school. Hopefully we will be back before the middle of June and the start of the new timetable and next round of GCSE courses and work but if we are not, everyone is going to have to be ready to hit the ground running come September! Reading and writing for our younger children, as well as their mathematical skills, will quickly slip back if they are not regularly practised. We need to maintain learning and routines as best as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during what has been a difficult year for our Federation. Without your on-going support and that of the wider community, we would be in a very different position at this moment in time. I am sure that we will continue to work together in the best interests of all of our children. Staff are united in their determination to support the on-going learning of their pupils, even if that has to be at the end of a computer for some time to come. We will continue to do everything we can to meet your child's needs at this difficult time.

Many thanks,  
S Timmons  
Acting Headteacher

