



Irthington Village School  
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<http://www.irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk/>  
*Headteacher Lynn Harrison*

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

### **COVID – 19 -URGENT**

The situation is constantly evolving. The Local Authority has been overwhelmed with childcare requests that they **cannot** support – see the attached letter.

Essential childcare will be available **ONLY FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ATTEND**. This does not apply to keyworkers who are able to work from home or can arrange alternate childcare.

**EVERY CHILD WHO CAN SAFELY BE CARED FOR AT HOME SHOULD BE. If we do not act responsibly and only send children if necessary, schools that are open may be overwhelmed. Please be responsible and only make use of this provision if absolutely necessary.**

The Local Authority has asked schools who are able to, to open next week to offer emergency childcare for keyworkers. During the course of next week numbers of children attending schools will be collated and re-directed to hub schools, as yet to be determined. I have been asked to emphasize to everyone to only use this service as a last resort.

We will be opening Irthington School next week to provide this emergency care until the hub schools have been identified. Schools have been asked to enforce social distancing, which in effect means that children will be sat two metres apart at all times. We have been told that we are not providing an educational service, this is simply a childcare provision. Please note that there will be no transport or school meals provided. Please arrive no earlier than 9.30am and bring confirmation that you are a keyworker and cannot work from home and that your specific role is necessary, together with a packed lunch and suitable activities for your child. Children are to be collected no later than 3.30pm.

Looking further forward, if you will need to continue to use the emergency childcare, please follow the link below so that we can identify need and direct parents to open schools for the following weeks:

<https://forms.gle/uXGnmT4ZwWvAegTR7> Once completed click submit.

After the initial week of emergency care Irthington School will not remain open and you will be directed to a hub school.

These are the arrangements as of now, however, due to the nature of the virus all arrangements are subject to change. Please continue to check the school website and the school app for updates.

Yours sincerely  
*Lynn Harrison*