



# MILLOM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr M D Savidge

Ref:Gmlmad/COVID

Date: 24 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carer(s)

The start of this academic year has been a considerable challenge for all of us, however, it has equally been a privilege to see everyone in the school adapt to the new ways of working. Students have adjusted admirably to the increased expectations of our COVID secure school; following new timetables as well as a whole host of new measures for everyone's wellbeing. Staff have also worked tirelessly across the school; adjusting to new classroom layouts, supporting student needs, providing clean & safe learning spaces, and a host of behind the scenes organisation. It has been a whole school effort to safely reopen the school, and such efforts are a constant requirement in the day-to-day operation of our school. I thank you for your support in sending your children back to school to commence the new year.

Writing at this time is important in acknowledging the positive start to the year, under difficult circumstances. It is also essential that we take time to consider the challenges that still remain ahead of us.

As you may have heard in the media, COVID-19 cases have risen. It is reassuring to confirm that levels of infection within our local community have been much lower than the national average; we must all continue in our duties to keep each other safe.

I would like to draw attention to a few aspects of school life that require particular focus over the coming weeks and months.

## **School transport**

Students have been excellent in their preparedness in wearing face coverings, in line with national guidelines. I thank you for your support in this matter. Please be advised that transport operators have the right to refuse travel if students are not wearing a face covering.

It is essential that students adhere to a seating plan on school transport, travelling both to and from school. This is for reasons of contact tracing, should the need arise.

Millom School | Salthouse Road | Millom | Cumbria | LA18 5AB

T: 01229 772300

F: 01229 772883

E: [genenquiries@millom.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:genenquiries@millom.cumbria.sch.uk)

W: [www.millom.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.millom.cumbria.sch.uk)

### **School meals**

Students have adapted to new break and lunch time arrangements with impressive levels of calm. I am hopeful that this will continue as we enter the winter months. We will review and update arrangements at these times on a regular basis, though I do recommend bringing a coat to school at times of weather being less favourable.

Following on from other communications, I would like to reinforce the request for electronic top-up of school meal accounts be used, to reduce the need add cash to accounts in school.

### **Contact details**

It is of vital importance that school has the most up to date contact details on record for you, and other named family members. The situation could arise where individuals or groups of students may need to be collected from school; this may be the result of bad weather, or any other reason. This may occur with limited notice, and require decisive action from us all. Please consider how this event would be managed within your family or support bubble; **providing updated contact details if necessary**. Make sure your child knows the plan that is in place for them in the event of emergency school closure.

### **Student Illness**

There may be occasions where students fall ill, with COVID-19 symptoms, or otherwise. In line with usual procedures, please communicate reasons for any absence by contacting the school, stating the nature of any illness, and likely date of return to school.

In the event of COVID-19 symptoms being presented by students, or by members of the household, particular action is required, most significantly, immediate self-isolation.

I have attached a poster which has been supplied by Cumbria County Council which details a number of scenarios and the actions to take at each stage.

**It is important to note that where a COVID-19 test is being carried out, the receipt of a negative result must be discussed with school before students return to school.**

The continued safe operation of the school relies on us all accepting our own responsibilities to ourselves and to others in our community. We have started off the year doing this very well. The school will continue to operate under the current procedures until we notify you otherwise. Regular visits to the school website and following the Millom School Facebook page will allow you to keep up to date with the latest developments.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



M D Savidge  
Headteacher