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### PLEASE READ AND SHARE: SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am sure you will have seen in the news that there are major concerns about schools opening to all pupils in the current climate. At Cockfield Primary School, we have made the very difficult decision to close to **ALL** pupils **EXCEPT** children of critical and key workers from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and move all other pupils to home learning for the first two weeks of term.

The national picture is changing rapidly and staff now feel that they are in a far more worrying position than they were before the Christmas holidays as the north east has been placed into Tier 4 restrictions, in line with London and other areas of the south east, where all schools are being kept closed.

Due to concerns around increases in national and local coronavirus transmission rates our teaching and support staff are taking action following advice from their unions and professional associations and we now find ourselves unable to open the school safely. I do understand that this will cause some disruption to families, and I can only apologise. I firmly believe that school is the best place for children and do not want to disrupt your children's education any more than it has been already so far. I also know that this isn't a decision that staff have taken lightly and that they really want the best for your children and the community. We have a duty to protect the health and safety of our whole school community and this will always be our first priority.

We will be in touch tomorrow to share our plans on how school will open safely as soon as possible and to give more detailed information. Monday is a PD day as planned and therefore remote learning will begin from Tuesday.

I would like to thank everyone for your support, this isn't how I wanted to start my first week as headteacher of your lovely school, but I know that there are brighter times ahead and this is a temporary situation.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs K Costello, Headteacher

