

# GRIMSARGH ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Associate Headteacher: Mrs Warburton

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## COVID 19

After consultation with Lancashire County Council and Blackburn Diocese, school has made the decision with effect of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March to partially close. Each day the school carries out a risk assessment to ensure the safety of pupils and staff alike. Due to a large number of staff falling into the vulnerable group category and being advised to distance for 12 weeks and other staff absence, the school has no other option than to:

1. Cancel breakfast and after school club provision, including quiet club (KOGS). Nursery will also be closed and parents notified separately. Unless notified earlier, this will continue until after the Easter Holidays
2. Close year 3. Unless notified earlier, this will continue until after the Easter Holidays
3. Close Year 5. Unless notified earlier, this will continue until after the Easter Holidays

Staff in the above year groups have prepared home learning packs for the children and information will be sent home with your child at the end of the school day.

At present:

Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 will remain open as usual.

I understand that the above measures will impact greatly on your family life and I offer my thoughts and best wishes at this time.

There are many questions and queries that you may have surrounding this decision and I will try to offer resolutions in advance and be as transparent as possible. At this present moment, I am aware that 4/6 KOGS staff members will be absent making it unviable in terms of ratios to operate. Fees for breakfast and after school club will be reimbursed but please bare with us and give us time to organise. Nine members of staff will be absent tomorrow, there may be more at short notice. In year 3 and year 5, there will be no members of staff from tomorrow. Other staff members

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will be absent in different year groups but at present a known member of staff and ratios can work. It is my belief that over the coming days, staff absence will inevitably rise. If this is the case, staff have agreed that the focus and provision of teaching should be in Year 2 and Year 6 as priority groups. Therefore, (in the event of skeleton staff) the closure of other year groups would take place before year 2 and year 6.

The guidance for managing the coronavirus outbreak is ever changing and evolving to 'take the right steps at the right time'. In terms of school, we have no other option than to take the steps to partially close in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and co-operation, I have appreciated those parents who have taken the time to thank school for doing our best. I would also like to thank staff for continuing to provide the best possible care and education, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Kind regards

*Mrs Michelle Warburton*

