

Thornhill Primary School
Thornhill Gardens
Shildon

Co. Durham DL4 1ES

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19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with a heavy heart that I write to confirm that, following the Government announcement, the school will temporarily close its school buildings to all but the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children as of 5.30pm on Friday 20th March 2020.

While we have anticipated and prepared for this scenario, I do not underestimate the gravity of the Government's request and its impact on each member of our community.

We firmly believe that our school is not just a building: we are a family of children, parents, staff and governors. Every single member of this family now has a role to play in supporting each other. I would be grateful if everybody could follow the government advice and also look out for others that you know and play your part at this unprecedented time.

Although there is much that is out of our control, we can control how we respond to the challenge. Our teachers have busily prepared work for the children to complete and I request that all parents speak with their children about this new development. Please encourage your children to consider how they will respond to the closure of the school buildings and assist them in making positive choices and to use their time productively.

May I remind everyone that the closure is to reduce social contact throughout society and hence the spread of the virus. The school is only open for childcare (not education) for key worker groups who do not have alternative child care and the most vulnerable children. If you feel that you fall into one of these categories please complete and return the attached form below by Monday 23rd March.

The school will also support children on Free School Meals by providing a food parcel. If you would like us to do this please complete the attached slip.

Yours sincerely S Green Head Teacher