



## WITTON GILBERT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sacrison Lane,  
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Durham, DH7 6TF

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**Email:** [wittongilbert@durhamlearning.net](mailto:wittongilbert@durhamlearning.net)

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**Head Teacher:** Mrs P Nelson

DfE School Number: 2462

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021

Dear Parents and Carers.

Many of you will be aware of developments over the weekend regarding the impact of COVID 19 on schools.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our school has continuously worked with parents and the wider school community to prioritise the education of our children and young people, including establishing remote learning and extended hours when necessary.

Given the confusion over Government communication and guidance to schools, we believe the Secretary of State must provide clear and consistent information to schools in Tier 4 that includes a move to remote learning for all pupils (excluding vulnerable children and those of key workers).

We feel that schools have been placed in an impossible position and therefore we must focus on the safety and wellbeing of children, staff and the wider school community. **As such, governors have made the difficult decision to open only to vulnerable children and children of key workers (where both parents are key workers or one parent in a single parent family) from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Regular weekly updates about a return to school following this will be provided, subject to further information and guidance.** We do apologise for the short notice but find that the current circumstances have left us with no option.

So that staff can plan to best meet the needs of both children in school and those who will be working remotely, **school will be CLOSED to ALL children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.** We also need to establish which children will be allocated places in school, as these will be strictly limited.

To ensure continuation of the curriculum, children both in school and at home will have access to the same learning opportunities, which will be a combination of online and paper-based tasks. Children in school will be taught in their own classrooms, where possible, and will be expected to continue to wear school uniform. This is different to the 'Childcare' offer that was provided during the national Lockdown.

Only vulnerable children or children where **both** parents are key workers (one parent if single parent family) will be offered a place in school. This is due to very limited space available in each classroom. It is important to note that if your child is allocated a place in school, they **MUST** attend EVERY day during school hours. Breakfast and After School Club will continue to be available and paid for via ParentPay for those children attending school.

I would like to stress that the decision to take this action has been extremely difficult. Governors and staff will continue to review the situation and any changes will be communicated to parents as soon as possible. Staff will continue to work in school, with smaller groups where further safety measures such as social distancing, can be implemented. We will continue to use Class Dojo to support all children and families,





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particularly those working at home. Please ensure you have access to Class Dojo and don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries.

Further information, including details about Free School Meals, will follow over the next 2 days. **For now, if you require a school place for a vulnerable child or if you are a family where both parents are key workers (or one parent in a single parent family), please email school at [wittongilbert@durhamlearning.net](mailto:wittongilbert@durhamlearning.net) by 11am tomorrow (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan). Please also state the reasons for your request in your email. We will confirm if your child can be offered a place by the end of the day.**

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

*P Nelson*

Mrs P Nelson  
Headteacher



