



Together We Learn and Grow

Great Sankey Primary School

Liverpool Road,
Great Sankey
Warrington
WA5 1SB

Executive Headteacher: Mrs V.J Briggs BA (HONS) QTS NPQH

Telephone: 01925 728176

Email: admin@greatsankeyprimary.warrington.sch.uk

Website: <https://greatsankey-warrington.secure-dbprimary.com/warrington>

Twitter: @GtSankeyPrimary

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Dear parents and carers,

I am sure that you have watched the Prime minister's announcement this evening and heard the news with regards to **school closures with immediate effect**. It is a sad time that we are at the stage again in which we are partially closing our doors. This is done with a heavy heart but also with the upmost concern in ensuring that we are keeping our children, staff and families as safe as can be with the increase in transmission and infection rates across our areas.

The current situation is once again unprecedented and is changing daily. None of us anticipated tonight's announcement at 8pm in the evening to be expected to be actioned for tomorrow. We have worked hard today to build in provision plans and all parents have been emailed with regards to potentially accessing the provision for those whose children come under the government's definition of 'vulnerable' and 'critical key worker.' As this notice is so short, for tomorrow we are accepting all those that have currently asked for a place in the critical worker provision if needed. Senior leaders will then spend tomorrow reviewing these places and will contact people personally to review this with them as necessary. Please be aware that this place will only be confirmed for tomorrow in the first instance and we ask to only attend if this is absolutely necessary.

Going forward, we will be providing a provision in school for confirmed pupils, **but it is crucial that where pupils can remain at home safely, they should. The purpose of closing schools is to support "social distancing" and the most recent advice is for people to stay at home in order to limit the spread of the virus at this crucial time of a national emergency. Please abide with this for the safety of everyone.**

Schools are being asked to provide provision and remain open for only those children who absolutely need to attend school.

The government are clear in that their objective is to have a very small minority of pupils attending school as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society thus reducing the strain on the NHS. Guidance just released can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

So please, regardless of whether or not your child falls in to either the "vulnerable" or "critical key worker" category, where you can, safely, keep children at home.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our wonderful staff across the school in every area who have come into school today, and since the onset of this virus with smiles and positivity, despite their own fears and in particular after all the speculation over the weekend. They have all continued to work tirelessly to ensure 'normality' has remained in school since our return in September and that the children felt safe, happy and carried on with their learning.

Our online resources are established and have been well planned and thought out to help your child continue to love their learning and we will endeavour to get these uploaded as quickly as possible tomorrow, but we ask you to please be patient in the first instance as we assess who is accessing online and who is in school. This provision has continued to evolve since the summer and staff will work closely with you to ensure that your child is still getting their daily diet of education during this current lockdown time.

Yet again I also thank you for your support. This is not what anyone wants, and I know that many of you will struggle with your own jobs whilst supporting your child however, this is something that once again must happen, hopefully in the short term so that we can soon return back into school, where we all want to be and belong. The vaccinations have started again in earnest today so let's hope that we will see the effect of this before long across our society.

I will continue to keep you updated with the latest developments and will write again this week once we have the opportunity to fully digest the guidance that is being released.

We will miss all the children again during our closure and hope that all our GSP families stay safe, well and that we see you all soon.

Take care and kind regards,



V.J. Briggs
Headteacher