



Meltham CE Primary School

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Headteacher Mr P Gibbins

Thursday 3rd December 2020

Dear parents,

As the weather worsens over the winter period, we are all forced to consider the possibility of school closures due to bad weather. Under normal circumstances, this does not happen very often. However, I feel it is important to share with you all how the impact of the COVID systems currently in place in all primary schools may influence decisions to keep schools open.

Usually at Meltham CE, we make allowances for members of staff who live more remotely to arrive at work safely when it snows, which often takes time. We also allow these staff to leave early should conditions worsen. On occasion we have members of staff who are unable to get to work and who we cover using other staff within the school. Allowing staff movement between different classes ensures school can remain open and that there is always someone on hand to take care of the children.

However, I'm sure you will understand that we no longer have the licence to freely move staff into other bubbles as the safety of our children and the mitigation against the spread of COVID-19 is currently so important. In light of this, it is possible, over the course of the winter months that the whole school (or parts of the school) may need to close because we are unable to move staff and children between bubbles and ensure the safety of the children and consequently the safety of your families.

Please be reassured that this decision is never undertaken lightly and that we will do all we can to remain open in snowy conditions. I would however ask that you be aware of how much more complicated it is this year. Of course we now have an established Remote Learning platform where work will be available which will help avoid children losing any more valuable learning.

What if school has to close before the start of the school day?

Should the school need to close due to bad weather, we will let you know as early as possible via a message on the school spider App. If you have not downloaded this, you will receive an email from school detailing any closures. I will try to publish this on Facebook, but school continues to have ongoing problems with the site and it cannot currently be relied upon. The information will also be posted on Twitter and you will be able to find the school listed as closed on Kirklees Council's pages.

What if school has to close during the course of the day?

If we need to send children home early we will make contact with you by the school spider app and by email and would ask that if the weather is snowy, that you be vigilant in keeping an eye out for messages from school. We will then need to rely on you to collect your child from their current exit door. As at drop off and pick

up, I would be very grateful if you would continue to wear a face covering and maintain a safe social distance from other parents. Arriving and leaving as promptly as possible will be vitally important if we are to keep crowding to a minimum.

I sincerely hope we do not have to consider snow closure this year, but know I can count on your support should it be necessary.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Gibbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "G".

Phil Gibbins
Headteacher
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