

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

Mrs L Batey - Headteacher



Shankhill C of E Primary School

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4th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: School Closure

We are extremely sorry to inform you that **Shankhill School is 'closed' for the remainder of this week** (including Friday 8th January). **It is only open to those pupils who are vulnerable or who are children of essential, frontline critical workers** who have no one at home or a childcare bubble to look after their child. **Remote Home Learning will be provided for all pupils via our e-schools platform** with further information sent via e-schools and email tomorrow. If paper-based tasks are required, these will be available for collection from 10:30 am tomorrow.

This decision has been made following a busy day liaising with staff, Governors, local schools and our Local Authority as well as carefully considering the responses from all of our parents/carers in our survey. Thank you for the 100% response in such a short timescale. We respect the fact that 63% of parents chose to keep their children at home during this uncertain time. We will endeavour to continue to support each child and their family throughout closure. E-schools provides a direct line of communication to your teacher and further training and information can be found [here](#) to help you use access this platform or at <https://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk/children/learning-links/>

We hope that reduced numbers in our building will allow for the reduction of transmission within our community and minimise the risks for children, staff and our wider community. Our aim is for all children to be back in school as soon as is safely possible. This decision will be reviewed following Boris Johnson's announcement this evening, and again on Friday 8th January. This might lead to a further week of closure 11th-15th January. We will keep parents informed.

This evening, Mrs Batey will telephone the families of Critical Workers to discuss access to school for tomorrow. Please note that learning will be different in school, as staffing is reduced, and will follow the remote learning set for home. We will make the necessary arrangements for those eligible for free school meals.

This has been a very difficult decision to reach. We appreciate that some of you will be frustrated by it whilst others will welcome the decision. We know that decisions like these are rarely supported unanimously but we always have the safety of our school community at heart. We have done all we can to keep our school as safe as possible throughout this pandemic but the new variant and rapidly rising infection rates in Carlisle and our rural areas mark a significant change. School staff and governors want to be able to reopen our doors to everyone as soon as possible but we must do so safely.

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019

Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018



Eco Schools

www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming you all back soon. In the meantime, please stay as safe as you can.

Yours sincerely



Lynnsey Batey
Head Teacher