

Whitley Memorial Primary School will unfortunately not be able to reopen until Monday 19 October at the earliest.

The Governing body has today reviewed the staffing situation and it is clear that we will be unable to guarantee the safety and welfare of our children and our staff, which is our main priority at this time.

Covid-19 related absences will prevent over 20 of our staff from attending school prior to Monday 19 October at the earliest.

Classroom staff absence will make it very difficult to give children the level of support they need, including the specific help to our children with Education, Health and Care Plans.

The school will also be unable to provide adequate First Aid and medical support, meet cleaning needs of the school, cook meals on site or perform basic maintenance, including heating the school at this time.

As a result of this we are unable to guarantee the safety and welfare of both our children and staff. As this is our absolute priority the school will remain closed until we can guarantee that safety and wellbeing.

The decision to remain closed has been taken by the Governing body with the full support of the staff and after consultation with Public Health England, the Local Authority and the Diocese.

We will review the situation next Thursday, 15 October.