

LIMITLESS POTENTIAL

IGNITE PASSION

EMBRACE DIFFERENCE

Wednesday, 21st February 2024

RE: Update on school closure

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you are all enjoying a safe and relaxing half term. Ahead of our return to learning next week, we would like to give you all an update on the ongoing closure of the school and our plans to safely and gradually return pupils to school.

As stated in my previous communication, surveyors visited the school to complete structural inspections and initial reports have indicated that a specific kind of building method used in isolated areas of the school may pose a safety risk.

Since this inspection, we have been working closely with North Tyneside Council and the Department for Education to explore options for bringing our pupils back to face-to-face learning as quickly and safely as possible.

Despite all our efforts, we **will not** be in a position to re-open the school fully for **all** pupils immediately after the half term.

What areas are impacted?

Following the advice of engineers, the affected areas we must keep closed until further investigations are completed are as follow:

- School entrance & offices
- Staffroom
- 'Happy Days' OOSC – School library
- Staff and pupils' toilets facilities
- Main Hall & Kitchen facilities
- Both Reception classes, Year 1 (Miss Gould), Year 2 (Miss Knights), Year 3 (Mrs Patterson), Year 3 (Miss Smith), Year 4 (Mrs Salmon & Miss Bowman).

This means there are currently not enough toilet facilities on site to cater for our 310 pupils and staff. We have ordered additional toilet facilities and while I know this may be disappointing, we simply cannot open to all until they have been delivered next week and are fully functional.

The issue being investigated does not impact the whole school and engineers have confirmed areas of the school that were not built using the same method are safe for our pupils to return to.

The unaffected areas are:

- Early Years Block (Nursery & currently (Year 1) Mrs Snell's classroom)
- block of 3 classrooms situated in the back yard

I can confirm that alongside our unaffected areas, we have been able to secure additional buildings which should allow pupils to return to face-to-face learning. These include:

- Air Cadet Building (adjacent to the school)
- Wideopen Library
- Collingwood Marquee (a fully heated and lit marquee in the back yard)

I'd like to give you assurances that all of these spaces will be made appropriate for our children and we will have additional procedures in place to support with getting the children to and from these locations. We will also be monitoring them frequently to ensure they're still suitable.

Our planned gradual and safe return to school

As I've mentioned, we will not be in a position to return all pupils after half term however we will be able to safely return some year groups from Tuesday 27 February.

Pupils from Nursery to year 2 and our year 6 classes will return to site next week, but unfortunately Years 3, 4 & 5 will return with current remote learning arrangements until Monday 4 March.

Below is a full explanation of our timetable for a safe return to school for all pupils:

Monday 26th February: SCHOOL CLOSED

- Unavoidable closure to allow staff in school to set up marquee and additional classrooms.

Tuesday 27th February 2024 to Friday 1st March 2024

From Tuesday (27 February) the following classes will be able to return to school:

- Nursery and Reception: Early Years Block
- Years 1 (Mrs Snell), Year 1 (Miss Gould) and Year 2 (Miss Thorton): Classes situated in the back yard
- Year 2 (Miss Knights): based in heated marquee
- Year 6: Air Cadets building
- OOSC will reopen for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 & Year 6 families only (located in Early Years unit – More information to follow from 'Happy days' OOSC)

Toilet facilities are available for children in the Early Years unit.

Monday 4th March: Full return to school for all pupils

- Nursery and Reception (x2): Early Years Block
- Years 1 (Mrs Snell), Year 1 (Miss Gould) and Year 2 (Miss Thorton): Classes situated in the back yard
- Year 2 (GK), Years 3 (LP), Year 3 (RS): Marquee.
- Years 4 and 5: Wideopen Library
- Year 6: Air Cadet building
- OOSC will reopen for all pupils (located in Early Years unit – More information to follow from 'Happy days' OOSC)

North Tyneside Catering Services

As the kitchen is not accessible, North Tyneside catering services will send in packed lunches for income based free school meals and universal free school meal pupils. These will be distributed out to classrooms.

For those not in receipt of free school meals, children will need to be sent to school with a packed lunch for each day.

I know that this is not the news that many of you were hoping for. We are taking every step possible to return our pupils but the safety of our pupils and staff is the most important thing for us and I am sure you understand that until we can ensure the building is safe, we must take every precaution necessary.

We know that this past few weeks have been challenging for many and our brilliant teaching staff will be doing everything to ensure our children continue to receive the best possible education.

Further surveys have taken place, and we are now waiting for detailed structural reports from surveyors. We will share more details as soon as we receive them.

Thank you once again for your support at this time. Seeing the school community support one another through this challenge is really appreciated.

Stephane Bommel
Headteacher

Hazlewood Primary School

Julie Firth
Director Children's Services


North Tyneside Council

