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Headteacher: Mrs Philippa Foster

4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today as a matter of urgency. You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in schools across the country. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete that was used in roof, floor, cladding and wall construction in the UK from the mid-1930s to the mid-1990s in many public sector buildings.

It is now recognised that RAAC panels have deficiencies making them less robust than traditional concrete. As such, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance for education settings to take a more precautionary approach and as a result, areas in affected spaces are being advised to vacate.

As you know, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is our top priority. To help fast-track our inspections and identify any RAAC quickly, the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) has funded structural surveys for our buildings. **Following an inspection today, the results indicate that we do have RAAC in parts of our school building. We will receive further details about the exact location and extent of RAAC in the coming weeks but as a precautionary and safety measure, we will be closing some parts of the school in the interim.**

Nursery and Reception classes are unaffected and those children can come into school as normal starting tomorrow. There is no risk in these areas of the building.

All other classrooms are affected, and the school will be closed to Years 1-6 tomorrow. Please do NOT bring children in these year groups to school. We are working to house Years 5 and 6 in the school hall, which is safe. They should return to school on Wednesday. They should enter the school through the carpark and the hall door.

We are working to find accommodation for Years 1,2,3 and 4. We will provide remote learning through ClassDojo for these children from tomorrow afternoon. It is likely that this will be until at least Monday 11th September and we will advise you as soon as we are able. If you require a paper pack please contact the school office to arrange to collect it.

We are now working closely with the DfE, BDAT and the wider Bradford community to assess the best possible option for our pupils to ensure they continue to receive an excellent education whilst this issue is addressed.

In the meantime, we will also be working very closely with the DfE, our surveyors and our contractors to ensure any necessary measures are taken so our building is safe for pupils and staff to return to as quickly as possible. Whilst we are unable to confirm a timeframe for this just yet, we will update you on this as soon as we can.

We apologise that we cannot yet confirm the full contingency plan – as we hope you can appreciate this has all happened very quickly, as you may have seen from national news coverage of other schools. We wanted you to be the first to know the current situation and to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to rectify this as quickly as possible.

There will be no Jellybeans wraparound care tomorrow. We will provide a picnic school dinner for Nursery and Reception. For all other children who receive free school meals please collect their lunch from school between 12pm and 12.30pm

We will continue to keep you updated on plans as and when we can confirm them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our school office.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. P. Foster
Head Teacher