



Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Re: Impact of Heating System replacement

I am writing to outline the extremely complex plans which have now been finalised in order to facilitate the programme of works needed to carry out the re-piping of our heating system.

As you know, we are currently without our gas heating system and are running off electric heaters. It was minus 3 degrees this morning and I am delighted to say that the heaters are coping well within the Learning Zones. The toilets and corridor areas are a bit chilly but we can manage that.

The free hoodies (purchased by the Trust) for all children and staff will arrive when we return from the half term break.

Building work commences on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and is split into four main phases of work.

Phase 1	Diamond, Emerald, UKS2 toilets and corridors
Phase 2	Boiler House, Kitchen & Hall inc access corridors
Phase 3	Ruby, Topaz, Library, LKS2 toilets and corridors
Phase 4	Sapphire, Amethyst and long corridor

Whilst Quora are working in these phase areas, the Learning Zones will be moved to alternative rooms within the school to ensure the health and safety of children and adults in school at all times.

It is anticipated that the total programme of work will take 6-8 weeks but the firm (Quora) are working closely with us to try to keep the timescales to a minimum in order to complete the job as quickly as possible and therefore have our heating restored as soon as possible. They are working flexibly and are prepared to work long days, overnight and over weekends too to get the job done for us and I am extremely grateful for this.

We all know what winter in Weardale can look like and the closer we get to December the greater the risk of the weather deteriorating beyond the point our electrical heaters can cope. Please be assured that I am doing everything possible to avoid having to implement remote learning. I know from the many parents/carers who have spoken to me over the last week that this is the very last thing parents want to happen. The staff team are in full agreement and they are also doing everything possible to avoid this

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situation, working above and beyond to help to physically move classrooms and equipment and to ensure children are prepared for the classroom moves and the disruption to their normal routine.

In order for Quora to increase staff working in the school so that they can get as much done as possible during the half term holiday, we have taken the difficult decision to extend the October half term holiday by two days. This will allow Quora to ensure that the kitchen and hall areas are complete before the children return to school because obviously without these areas we would have to close the school. Rather than take that risk, I would rather plan for two additional days holiday and minimise any last-minute disruption for parents/carers.

**As such, our children will break up for the half term holiday on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October and school will re-open on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

This decision has been supported by Dr Sarah Haynes (Chair of Academy Council) and Canon Paul Rickeard (CEO of the Trust).

Off-site provision will be made for vulnerable children on Child Protection Plans or identified as Child In Need and if this affects you, I will contact you personally to discuss these plans.

There will inevitably be significant disruption over the next 6-8 weeks as most Learning Zones are required to move out of their classrooms for a temporary period of time. The arrangements are too complicated to outline in one letter and therefore I will be sending parents/carers of each learning zone a separate letter outlining specific arrangements for their children.

In addition, we have an SLT Question Time session arranged for 3.30pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the school hall, so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask anything or seek clarification.

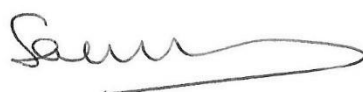
I know that the next 6-8 weeks are going to be really challenging for everyone and there will be many implications and changes needed as a result. I will try to keep you up to date as soon as any implications become apparent but please bear in mind that there will inevitably be unforeseen circumstances which we will have to respond to quickly.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

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Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher

Dr Sarah Haynes  
Chair of AC

Canon Paul Rickeard  
CEO of DNDLT

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