

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



Westcroft

Stanhope

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Co Durham

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Re: Next disaster to beset the school**

I am sure most of you will have noticed that the fire brigade were on site yesterday afternoon at pick up time. This was due to the fact that yesterday afternoon we had a torrent of water running down the bank at the back of the school at such a rate that our drains couldn't cope with it. The water therefore ran along the back of the building and into the EYFS yard and began to flood through the door and wall into the Amethyst Learning Zone.

The fire service remained on site for a number of hours trying to pump out the water and avoid further damage to the Amethyst area. An emergency team attended the site and diverted the water into a larger main drain away from the school building which made the school safe overnight.

The source of the problem originated off site and was not the responsibility of the school however, we have taken the brunt of the impact. There is hundreds if not thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Northumbria Water are working with Durham County Council to identify the actual cause of the flood and I will confirm the outcome as soon as I am made aware. In the meantime, please be assured that Northumbria Water are working closely with us on the clean up operation and in identifying damage incurred for the insurance claim.

I would also like to reassure you that the school will remain open. The children are not able to use the Amethyst Learning Zone until further notice and are currently being taught in the Pearl Learning Zone. As you can imagine, coming on top of the current heating works, this has caused significant logistical challenges within the school but as always, we are doing our absolute best to continue to provide high quality education for our children.

Please do not underestimate how disruptive and unsettling all of this is for our children and staff team, particularly for those with additional needs.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local fire fighters and Maintenance UK who responded to the emergency and who were incredibly professional and reassuring.

Thank you for bearing with us and for your continued understanding during yet another incredible challenge.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs D Cross*

Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher

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