



Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carers

29th June 2026

Re: Flood on Friday 26th June 2026

On Friday, Stanhope had two episodes of torrential rainfall. During these storms, the main drainage system serving our site failed, causing a backup of surface water and sewage to enter the school's drainage system and flood parts of the building. The exact cause is currently being investigated by the relevant organisations.

Following our last major flood last year, all of our drains had a camera survey, were flushed and repaired where necessary. Both Northumbria Water and Dynorod attended on Friday night and confirmed that the school drains were not at fault.

The areas affected were the Topaz Learning Zone (After School Club room), Ruby toilets, the art and science storage cupboards and the Ruby Learning Zone and link corridor.

Staff on site tried desperately to stop the flood water entering the Ruby classroom but the volume and speed of the water made this impossible.

Over the weekend the flood waters have been removed by Dry Rite and we are expecting our insurance Loss Adjustor on site today or tomorrow. Chemical testing will be carried to ensure the areas are safe for children and staff to access or if further work is required.

Ruby is closed today with approval from the Trust and Department for Education to allow us time to convert a nursery area into a classroom and to organise basic resources for Ruby.

From Tuesday, Diamond Learning Zone will relocate to the Pearl (Nursery) area. This decision has been made because Diamond has a smaller class size (19 children), making the space more suitable. Diamond children should arrive at school as normal and will access Pearl via the school hall.

The Diamond Learning Zone will then be open tomorrow for Ruby to return. Ruby will be going swimming as normal in the morning. Ruby children should access school via the double fire doors next to the Emerald classroom.

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We are placing an emergency order today to ensure that basic equipment is available for our children from tomorrow.

I would like to apologise for the disruption this unexpected incident has caused to our children and families. Although the flooding was entirely beyond the school's control, staff have worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to ensure that disruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience, and the many offers of help and support we have received following what has already been a very challenging year. Your kindness is greatly appreciated, and we will continue to keep you updated as the investigation and recovery work progresses.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

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Head Teacher

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