



Important Announcement – Thursday 15th February 2024

Dear All,

This week the investigations into the structural issues started to take place, you will have seen this being reported on the local news. What you will have been hearing is that this is now becoming a concern in several schools across North Tyneside. The structural visit this week has confirmed that further investigations need to take place and timescales for this, as yet, are unknown. One thing we can be sure of, is this is going to be an issue for us for some time.

With this in mind, we have worked closely with the Local Authority to get a plan into place to ensure that Grasmere children can return to school as soon as possible.

As you know, we share our site with Silverdale School. Currently they occupy all the single storey classrooms. We have decided to ask the Local Authority to relocate Silverdale School to another area of North Tyneside. This will allow Grasmere children to then accommodate the single story classrooms.

As you can imagine this will involve a lot of carefully planned and coordinated work. It will mean that Silverdale School will have to empty their classrooms, in order for us to move in. In the meantime, we will need to hire a specialist removal company to empty all of our classrooms in the two story block and move equipment, tables and chairs into the empty Silverdale School classrooms. This will then enable all Grasmere children to return to school.

The plans for this will commence in the half term holidays, but we will need at least the first week back to organise this. If all plans go according to timescale, we could be looking at getting all children back on site for the week beginning 4th March. I do have to stress that this is a tentative timescale that we are working towards, but I wanted to give you clarity so you have something to plan towards.

In order to support this plan, we are proposing that we move the training day on Monday 15th April to Monday 26th February, to allow time for all staff to pack and move their classrooms. We feel that this would be a better use of time and I think you would agree, with all the disruption that we have had, a training day in April would be yet another day away from school.

In summary - key information:

School finishes for February half term - Friday 16th February 2024

Training day for all children - Monday 26th February 2024 (no on-site or remote learning)

Arrangements for Tuesday 27th February - Friday 1st March 2024

2 Year olds	In school
Nursery	In school
Reception	In school
Badger Class (Years 1/2) (Mrs Waters)	Stay on remote learning
Hedgehog Class (Years 3/4 - Miss Sutton)	Stay on remote learning
Magpie Class (Year 5 - Mrs Witty Crane)	Stay on remote learning
Otter Class (Year 6 - Miss Whelan)	In school
KS2 ARP - Owls (Miss Winship)	Stay on remote learning
KS1 ARP - Foxes (Miss Rowland)	Stay on remote learning

Limited Childcare places will also be available Tuesday to Friday - if your child has already been allocated a place we will call you to confirm days by 2pm on Friday.

We will also continue to provide packed lunches for the children who receive Free School Meals from Tuesday to Friday. Please send a text on Tuesday 27th February with your order for the week. Lunches can be collected between 11:45 am and 12:15 pm.

We are hopeful that this all goes according to plan and we can welcome children back on site Monday 4th March, but as previously stated, there is a lot for us to organise here and if timescales for this change we will let you know as soon as possible.

If this phase 2 of our plan works, it means that investigations and repair work on the two storey block can commence, whilst all children at Grasmere return to education.

After half term, we will update you on how our plans are progressing and explain our organisation for the new classrooms.

Again, my thanks go to you all for your continued support in what has been a very challenging time and my sincerest thank you to all staff at Grasmere who have worked tirelessly to make this work.

I wish you all a happy and restful half term holiday.

Kerry Lilico
Headteacher

