

30th August 2019

Dear Parent

Possible delay to the start of term

We write to inform you that we may have to delay the start of the autumn term as our programme of summer building work is overrunning with final completion now re-scheduled for early October. We felt that it was important to give all parents advanced notice of this so that you can make contingency plans for your child's care should the start of term need to be delayed for a day or two next week.

It is important to say at this stage that we would hope to avoid any delays to the start of the new term but we are sure you will agree that the health, safety and comfort of staff and students is our primary concern.

During the summer, we have been pleased to welcome the company Jacobs on to site who have been contracted and funded by Cumbria County Council to carry out an extensive programme of work. This has included roofing repairs, window and skylight replacements, fire exit replacement and, most significantly, replacement of our oil fired boilers with two new gas fired boilers.

Unfortunately, a number of uncontrollable factors including the weather and unforeseen challenges to do with our school site have led to delays in carrying out the work with a significant amount of the work still to be completed. Most notably, the two new boilers will not be installed in time for the start of the new term and scaffolding needs to be moved to enable access to several fire exits and access routes.

Temporary plant is being installed to ensure that we have hot water but we are concerned that this will not be connected to provide heating in the school. This is naturally a concern as we would not want children and staff to be working in an environment that is too cold and not fit for learning.

You will be pleased to know that we are working closely with the project team to secure a temporary solution for heating the school but we have not yet had confirmation that this will be in place for the planned first day of term on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

When will I find out if there is a delay to the start of term?

On Monday 2nd September 2019, staff will be in school for the first of two INSET days. During the day, we will be talking to the project team to finalise the arrangements for running the heating at school and for moving the scaffolding and generally making the site safe for students and staff.

We will send a message to parents on Monday afternoon to confirm the arrangements for the start of term. Hopefully, we will be able to resolve any outstanding issues and we can start the school term as planned.

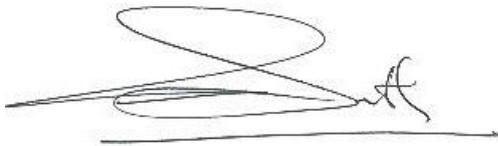
Should we need to delay the start of term for more than just Wednesday 4th September 2019, we will provide time for your child's teachers on our second planned INSET day (Tuesday 3rd September 2019) to prepare some purposeful activities for their classes and send this home to you via email. Our new Arbor information management system makes this process more manageable than in previous years. We will inform you on Monday about these arrangements should they be necessary.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your understanding in this matter. We are hopeful of resolving the outstanding issues so that we can make a timely start to the new year but we thought it was helpful to inform you about a possible delay to the start of term. Thank you in advance for making contingency plans for your child's care, should we need to delay the start of term.

Yours sincerely



A Cunningham
Headteacher



B Smith
Chair of Governors



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