

Dear Families

Firstly, can we apologise sincerely to the families that were unable to attend because of the technical glitch. We worked hard through the meeting to try and resolve it. It must have been frustrating, so we have tried to get this information out to you as soon as possible.

In the meeting Lynsey Holzer (CEO) gave an update about events leading up to the closure. This included what investigative works had been carried out, what we had done to reduce the risk and why we finally made the decision to close the premises until the end of term. We are very clear that we want to be honest with our community.

LONGER TERM

The age and condition of the building was discussed and also that plans and proposals were already underway to consider a long-term solution for the school. We are in dialogue with the Local Authority and the Department for Education on what these options might be. Note, projects of this type are complex and typically take 3-4 years to complete.

SHORT TERM to MEDIUM TERM

Since the closure, survey work has revealed further issues with the roof and consideration is being given as to other ground issues that may have caused the multiple incidents. Because of the seriousness of the concerns and the likelihood that any remedial work would be so extensive, Angel Road Junior site will not be in operation from September until such time that we are clear about the nature of the problem. This is likely to be at least a year.

Because of this we have been working hard behind the scenes to prioritise educational provision for September. We are now able to give you more information and will follow up with more detail as soon as there are formal agreements in place. Below is a summary of the information we shared during the meeting and responses to the questions that were posed.

- there will be educational provision in place for September which is most likely to be offered on site at the infant school and with another local provider; we need to ensure all stakeholders involved in the arrangements are informed before we can formally announce this
- as it looks very likely we will be at 2 locations, which may mean different locations for drop off and pick up for some parents, we shall be exploring all avenues such as walking buses, drop off points, staggered start and end times to support families through the interim arrangements
- we are aiming to ensure children stay in year groups and they will be taught by the teachers you have already been informed of; we are working to keep children in normal class sizes but we are balancing this with the need to secure short-term provision in the local area so families can rely on this for September
- we are securing arrangements for a modular school site on the large field at the rear of the infant school for the medium term whilst longer term plans are secured. We are working to have this in place for the second Autumn term. This is also a complex process; we will update as we have clear timescales
- children will be given a child friendly version of this information so that you can discuss arrangements with them. We will reassure them that they will be with their friends and that the adults are planning to look after them really well

- we fundamentally believe that because of the very good quality of education already in place at Angel Road Junior that the children will cope well. You can be assured of continued high quality of teaching and learning
- we are planning adapting the process for vulnerable children who may require additional support; the SENCO will be contacting families to make plans
- we are heavily invested in educational research; this tells us that the quality of teaching and good relationships matter most for outcomes for children, not bricks and mortar. This means the very good improvements made in the last two years can be maintained and are highly portable
- Breakfast & After School Club provision will be looked at. We want to stress that we will adapt to try and accommodate parent's needs during this interim period

NEXT STEPS

- There will be another meeting on Monday 2nd August – we shall communicate the TEAMS link another way. We believe sending the link via Pupil Asset disabled it. The time will be confirmed
- You will receive information about specific arrangements for September
- If we are able to update you before this we will. You will receive this information via email with a follow up Q and A session on the date above
- EAT and ARJ contact information will be shared so there is an open line of communication over the summer holidays

Myself, Lynsey Holzer and Al Whalen, wish to extend our thanks and genuine gratitude to those who were able to attend for the thoughtful and highly constructive questions. The understanding and support from this community has been very notable and quite remarkable given the very significant disruption over the past 16 months. We will continue to work with stakeholders, including the Local Authority and the Department for Education, to secure provision for students. Please be assured of our absolute commitment at a trust and local level.

Regards

Binks Neate-Evans

BJ Neate-Evans

Executive Principal