



02 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your children are having an enjoyable half-term break.

I am writing to let you know that, following a recent planned survey of the school, it has been established that there is Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the North Hall, three classrooms in the East building and four classrooms in the West building.

We are working with Birmingham City Council and the Department for Education (DfE) and it has been confirmed that the school remains safe in all areas apart from those where RAAC is present.

The Department for Education's guidance is that any areas where RAAC is present will need further, detailed surveys and pupils should not be in affected areas until these surveys have been completed and any necessary mitigations are in place.

We therefore need to reconfigure our teaching spaces to enable all pupils to attend school as normal. The changes we will make are:

- The classrooms containing RAAC will be temporarily closed, and pupils will learn in alternative classrooms and other spaces such as the gyms
- Exams will be held in other venues around the school

In order to allow arrangements to be put in place for the safe return of all pupils, a staggered return to school will take place next week. This is set out below:

Monday 6 November	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday 7 November	Year 7, 10 and 11 pupils to attend school as normal Year 8 and 9 pupils to complete work remotely
Wednesday 8 November	Year 7, 10 and 11 pupils to attend school as normal Year 8 and 9 pupils to complete work remotely
Thursday 9 November	School open to all pupils as normal
Friday 10 November	School open to all pupils as normal.

What will happen at the school during the staggered return?

- All Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils will return to school on Tuesday 7th November and should attend as normal from then on. Attendance is expected as normal in line with the Department for Education's expectation that all school-registered children of compulsory school age to be in attendance on school opening days.

- Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 will have work set for them remotely through the Class Charts programme for Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November. They will return to school on Thursday 9th November and should attend as normal from then on.
- The families of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils who are entitled to free school meals will receive a text/in-app message with a link to complete an online form (one form per child) to confirm if they would like a packed lunch for Tuesday and Wednesday when the pupils are undertaking remote learning. Lunches will be available for collection from the School Office on Tuesday 7 November.
- Vulnerable pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 will attend on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th. Families will be contacted by the school to make arrangements for this.
- The school will be open to all pupils in all year groups from Thursday 9th November onwards.

I appreciate that this is short-notice and apologise for any disruption the staggered return may cause you. Please be aware that other maintenance work is taking place at school at present to repair a burst water pipe which has also impacted our work to reconfigure the teaching space.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. Please be assured that we have not taken these decisions lightly and that the staggered return is necessary to enable us to reconfigure the teaching space at the school. All necessary risk assessments have been undertaken.

If you would like to know more about the support to schools to safely manage RAAC, the Department for Education has published an article which is available at <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/19/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>

We will continue to work closely with Birmingham City Council to get all teaching spaces back into use safely and will communicate with you further when these works are complete.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to our safe and secure learning environment next week.

Yours Faithfully



Hannah Herrmann

Head Teacher