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Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents,

Further to the letter you received from the SEND team last week, I am writing to apologise that we are unable to reopen the SEN Unit as hoped at the start of the Academic Year. I can not even begin to imagine how distressing this is for you and your child/ children and assure you that I am doing everything that I can to make sure that we are able to reopen the unit as soon as possible. A significant amount of building work was planned for during the school holidays. These planned works were to improve the 3 SEN classrooms adding air conditioning, skylights and better windows to the rooms. It was also to provide suitable changing facilities with changing beds for the unit, to remove asbestos from under the hall floor and to rebuild the hall floor.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, I learnt that the works were significantly delayed and have been working with the Local Authority since then to ensure that we have a safe and suitable learning environment for all children ready as soon as possible.

Below are some photographs taken this morning of the SEN classrooms. Works on the changing facilities have not even started yet.





As you can see, these rooms are nowhere near ready for the children to return safely to and it is because of this I have had to delay the start of the academic year. The works in the classrooms and toilet areas will hopefully be finished by the middle of October.

So that we can bring Rainbow Fish class back into school as quickly as possible, we have decided that once finished, the school hall will be used as a temporary learning space for them. The Lighthouse (currently the Nurture provision for the rest of school) will be used as a quiet teaching space and breakout area and my office will be used as the canteen space for the class. The current disabled toilet will be used as the changing room for the class.

Unfortunately, there are no other spaces in school that can be used as alternative classrooms/ learning spaces and I have been unable to find any alternative, safe spaces elsewhere.

Learning packs will be organised for children and will be delivered to you by the end of the week. We will also provide a £30 Tesco Voucher per child for lunches whilst the children are off.

Once again, I am deeply sorry that we have been unable to open the unit at the start of the year and accept that it is an unacceptable and disruptive start to the year. Unfortunately delays with the building works are completely out of my control and whilst I have been able to move things forward slightly I accept that this is still not good enough. If I, or any of the staff at Boarshaw can offer any other help or support please contact us and we will do all that we can to help.

Best wishes

*Jackie Harland*