

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Re: Issues with School Heating System**

Last week we had a burst pipe in the Amethyst Learning Zone which flooded the whole area and required us to move the children temporarily into the Pearl Learning Zone.

Emergency Plumbers attended school at 8pm that night and when inspected it was evident that the burst pipe had been caused by corrosion on the metal pipework on the heating system.

Yesterday we had mechanical engineers in school to inspect the pipework leading back to the boiler and unfortunately a long run of pipework is in the same condition as the burst pipe.

In order to stop the leak, we have had to drain the boilers and heating system and the concern is that once the system is refilled and repressured this could lead to any weaknesses in the system being exposed leading to further leaks.

Whilst the heating system and boilers are drained we have no heating source in the school apart from in the Opal and Pearl Learning Zones which run off a totally different underfloor heating system.

Given that we are approaching October and Autumn in Weardale can be very cold we are trying to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency. We wouldn't normally turn the heating back on until the October half term however, it is clear that any repair or re-piping will take some time to arrange and complete.

As you know, our financial situation is extremely challenging and we are exploring funding options with our insurance company; the ESFA and with the MAT.

Electric heaters have been ordered and will in school in the next day or two so that we do have a 'plan B' in case of a sudden frost or decrease in temperature.

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Please be assured that the health, safety and well-being of our children and staff team are my main concern and priority. All Learning Zones will be monitored closely to ensure the legal minimum temperature of 16 degrees is exceeded (possibly by use of the electric heaters if necessary).

Every conceivable option will be explored to avoid having the situation whereby I need to close the school and move to remote learning. This is the very last resort and no-one wants this to happen.

We are working closely with and being supported by the MAT and please be reassured that this matter is being taken extremely seriously at a very senior level.

I will keep you informed as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs D Cross*

Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher

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