



Aboyne Lodge School,  
Etna Road,  
St. Albans,  
AL3 5NL

16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear All

**Important: Building Works and the move to temporary buildings – Easter 2020.**

As you know the refurbishment works at Aboyne Lodge are well underway and despite the recent wet weather remain on schedule and for now day to day school life remains relatively unaffected.

The next stage of work which will impact the children and staff will be the need to move from the existing school buildings to the new temporary school, a move which is scheduled to happen during the Easter Break. To carry out this move it is necessary for all affected classrooms, including day to day materials, IT equipment and furniture to be fully packed up, labelled and moved, as would happen during a house move, as nothing can be left behind.

Obviously moving an entire school across a site presents a number of logistical challenges and whilst professional movers have been engaged it has become apparent that the teaching staff will need to sort, label and pack all items that they need to take from the main school to the new school in the period before the Easter Holidays.

Staff have agreed to give up their time to pack outside of the core teaching hours over the coming term. However, it is clear that most work will need to be done at the last minute, as resources that need to be moved are in constant use for the benefit of the children.

Clearly the education and wellbeing of the children and the wellbeing of our staff are our top priority and so we have looked in detail at the options available to us to minimise the disruption including; the feasibility of relocating the children to another school in the area for a number of days, bringing in external teachers to teach the children whilst our staff pack their classrooms or laying on entertainment for the children. Unfortunately, the logistics, costs and space constraints of these options mean that none of them are viable.

**Additional School Closure**

**Having discussed the matter at length with teaching staff and representatives of the Education and Skills Funding Agency it is felt that the least disruptive option would be to close the school to those classes impacted by the move for two days before the start of the Easter holidays, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2020, to enable staff, the professional packers and a group of volunteers to pack up all of the classrooms as necessary. Additionally, the school will need to be closed again for two days at the end of the Easter holidays on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April to enable the teaching staff to set up their teaching spaces as required for the benefit of the children. These closures have been agreed by Herts County Council.**

**The impact on individual year groups will be as follows:**

**Nursery and Reception to Year 5:**

	Original Date	Revised Date
<b>Last Day of the Spring Term</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April at 13:30	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 13:30 (including Y6)</b>
<b>First Day of the Summer Term</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>

**Year 6**

	Original Date	Revised Date
<b>Last Day of the Spring Term</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April at 13:30	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 15:00</b>
<b>First Day of the Summer Term</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>

**Given the proximity of the closure to the SATs to be taken by Year 6, and the fact that they are not impacted by the move as they remain in the same classroom, the school will remain open to them during the days when the remainder of the school is closed, with teaching to be carried out as normal. Because of the closure, attendance by Year 6 students is expected but is not mandatory. Additionally, the school catering facilities will not be available in the days when the main building is closed and so any Year 6 students attending school will be required to bring a packed lunch with them.**

Whilst we acknowledge that the additional closure may cause some families childcare issues, which we have unsuccessfully attempted to mitigate with the help of ABC-XYZ, we believe that closing the school for this short period will have less of an impact on the children and their education than having their teaching resources removed/packed away for a longer period time and their teachers distracted by the need to pack and strip out classrooms.

If you have any questions, or concerns please contact me.

David Hope

Chair of Governors