



Fleming Field, Shotton Colliery, Durham. DH6 2JQ

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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Update

Unfortunately, the engineers who have been working on site for the past couple of weeks, have come to the conclusion that there is absolutely nothing more that can be done to get our heating up and running. They had hoped that by locating and fixing the first leak, last week, it was just a matter of releasing the airlocks in the pipes to get the heating working.

This week, after facing more problems and setbacks, we asked for three independent views on the best way to move forward in order to resolve the issue. The feedback from all three was that there must be another leak, located somewhere under the floor and the only way of finding it would be to start digging up the floors, many of which are concrete. In addition to this, there was a consensus of opinion that because the pipes are at least 50-year-old, and corroded, even if this leak was located and repaired, there would be no guarantee that leaks won't appear in the future.

Therefore, supported by the Diocese, the school will have a full new heating system put in, including new pipework and boilers. This, as you can imagine, entails a lot of work and is a big job that will take a few weeks to complete. Thankfully, the Diocese has classed the work as urgent and the appointed surveyor has already started to make plans.

While I fully understand how this may be causing additional problems for parents, in what is already a difficult time, I would once again like to stress that this is a situation totally out of our control.

This week, the staff at St Bede's have welcomed our staff and children into their school. It has been really lovely to see the children so happy in school and the transition has been very smooth. Our Lady of Lourdes has its own area, completely separated from the staff and pupils at St. Bede's, with all the facilities we could wish for.

We are very grateful to Mrs Craik, Headteacher at St Bede's, who has agreed to continue with this arrangement for the next few weeks, until our school is ready to welcome the children back. We now know that this is going to be longer term and next week we will make it even more 'like home' by moving furniture and resources to St Bede's.

If you think you have a child who is vulnerable, or you are a critical worker and require provision for next week, please complete the survey that will follow.

While we are very grateful to St. Bede's for providing free meals for us this week, payment for lunches will begin again, via ParentPay, from next week.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ashton

Headteacher