



# Hillside Specialist School & College

Providing exceptional education for all students

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5 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on this weeks unfortunate school closure due to flood damage to the school site. On arrival into school on Monday our site team discovered waist high level flooding in our basement boiler room and we were forced to implement our emergency school closure procedure to ensure no pupils were transported in. Our pumps that have been installed to manage any flooding from excessive rain had failed over the weekend, causing damage to our power supply and heating.

Initially a three day closure was put in place to rectify the issue, but due to continued flooding issues and pump failure, despite the round the clock attention of our own site team, I have had to extend this closure for the rest of the week, to provide local authority contractors time to rectify the issue and make sure school is a safe environment for staff and pupils to attend. School closures, as always are put in place through consultation with our Chair of Governors after we have assessed the health and safety issues for all involved.

We are hopeful of the heating being back in place across the whole site by Monday and I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding during the particularly difficult time. Further updates will be communicated to you via the usual methods of email, text, the schools Facebook page and Website. If you require further support or information, please liaise with your class teacher via email who will forward on your enquiry. Staff; have provided additional resources, tasks and information for your child to access via our Google classroom learning platform and I encourage you to sign in to your new class area if you have not already done so.

Can I ask that you notify school of any changes in your email address or first person phone contact details, to ensure that you continue to receive any emergency notification.

I would like to remind parents that we have set up a specific COVID-19 email address which we ask you to use to notify school of any out of hours information on pupil symptoms, Covid tests, contacts with people testing positive and family members requirements to self- isolation. This information is important to share with school as we are required to liaise with Public Health in managing cases and to work with other agencies in supporting families with these challenges. You can also use it to contact school with any questions you may have regarding Covid guidance.

Your continued support with this will help to keep our school a safe environment for pupils and staff and reduce the risks of closing a class bubble.

Yours sincerely

*Paul Leaper*

**Paul Leaper - Headteacher**

