

St William of York Catholic Primary School
Nugent Road, Bolton BL3 3DE
Tel: (01204) 333522
Fax: (01204) 333523
Email: office@st-williams.bolton.sch.uk
Website: www.st-williams.bolton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs C Lightbown



Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you are all well and I can only apologise for this unexpected delay to the start of the new school year. Getting children back to school quickly and safely remains our priority and we are working tirelessly to that end.

We promised to keep you updated and we intend to be as open and honest as we can.

Things have progressed very quickly since Friday. We have 3 classrooms that will not be in use until the RAAC is removed. We had already worked with structural engineers to ensure that each room was safe but once the DFE changed the guidance, we had to put these rooms out of use.

We have created a plan for **full rather than partial** reopening. One option presented to us was to deliver home learning to 3 classes until the temporary classrooms arrive but this is something we have worked hard to avoid. The classroom situation will not be ideal but it is temporary and once the portakabins arrive it will be business as usual.

We will send you details of arrangements for Monday on Friday; we can't be sure of what will happen until we get updates and then go ahead from the project manager. This really is out of our control.

Our nursery class is going to be temporarily relocated to The York Room at St William's church until the new classrooms arrive. We estimate this to be within 3-4 weeks.

Reception will remain in their classroom and will be unaffected.

Year 1 will remain in their classroom and be unaffected.

Year 2 have already moved their furniture into the nursery classroom. It has everything they need including toilets, cloakroom, computers and a whiteboard. They will enter school through the Settle Street gate.

Year 3 have moved downstairs into the spare classroom next to year 6.



Year 4 will be using the stage which is being made into a temporary classroom. They will also have use of the library.

Year 5 will remain in their classroom and be unaffected.

Year 6 will remain in their classroom and be unaffected.

Entrances and exits to the classrooms may change – we will let you know the final details on Friday.

We know that the situation, particularly for Nursery and Year 4 is not ideal but we feel the best thing for all our children is for them to be back in school as quickly as we can. The staff are already working hard on making the classrooms as welcoming as possible and we must remember that this is a very temporary situation.

In terms of the temporary classrooms, we have been very lucky to have secured 5 new units. They have carpets, sinks, cloakrooms, toilets, computers, heating and everything else we would normally expect in a classroom. There are some images at the bottom of this letter to reassure you about how these classrooms are likely to look.

The Year 2, 3, & 4 classrooms will have to have roof replacements over the next year- we have been assured that this can be done without any disruption to learning. We are hopeful that by Easter, all the classrooms will be back in use.

The school hall is currently covered in scaffold so we can't use it for PE or lunches but we can use it as a thoroughfare. The children may need to eat their lunches in the classrooms until the temporary classrooms arrive – we will send more details about lunches on Friday. The hall roof is going to be rebuilt as a priority; again this should not have an impact on learning or pupil safety.

It is unlikely that we will be able to offer breakfast club until the temporary rooms arrive – we will keep you updated.

We are looking for lots of creative ways to deliver PE sessions over the winter months at local leisure centres and sports centres. Let's hope the weather stays fine for the next few weeks.

No member of our school community will enter this school until we have full assurance from the experts that this building is completely safe. The safety of your children remains our priority and when we do open, you can be fully assured that school continues to be, as usual, a safe and happy place for your children.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding and support.

Mr Gareth Smyth

Chair of Governors

Mrs Clare Lightbown

Head Teacher

