



**ANAHILT**  
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide a detailed update regarding the ongoing issues affecting the school building, the steps taken over the past week, and our plans for the remainder of this week.

### **Heating System Failure**

As you are aware, the school has been without heating since 28 January. Temporary blow heaters were used where possible, but due to electrical limitations, the building could not reach the required minimum temperature of 16°C.

Before the February half term, we were assured that repairs would be completed during the break. Unfortunately, these works did not take place. When staff returned after half term, internal temperatures were unable to rise above 10°C, making the building unsuitable for pupils and staff.

A leak in the heating system was later identified in the reception area and potentially near the school offices. A dig was arranged to allow access for repairs.

This work was due to begin on Thursday but was postponed until Friday due to a scheduled Education Minister visit. When digging began, contractors discovered significant corrosion in the pipework, with multiple leaks along the line.

### **System Drain Down and Flooding**

The heating system was drained at approximately 4pm on Friday. When it was repressurised on Saturday morning, further issues emerged, including flooding in a KS2 corridor and P7 classroom and continued leaks under the school offices.

Contractors were contacted immediately, and clean-up work began on Sunday.

**Due to the ongoing lack of mains water and heating, the decision was made to close the school to pupils on Monday.**

### **Asbestos Discovery**

On Monday morning, as contractors attempted to resume digging, they encountered asbestos under the concrete floor. It is in the shuttering of the pipes and buried well under the ground.

To be clear, this is in the school offices and a store in the ICT suite – it is NOT in classrooms.

A formal request to continue digging was submitted last night to HSENI. Specialist asbestos contractors (DJV) arrived with the required equipment, including tunnels, extractors and decontamination facilities and set up yesterday and this morning.

Permission was granted this morning and digging is taking place over the course of this afternoon and tomorrow morning.

**We cannot open to pupils while an asbestos dig is taking place.**

The next steps are that the HSENI Safety Advisory Council will be onsite all day tomorrow testing the site and will issue us with written permission to reopen.

**Taking all this into account the school MUST remain closed to pupils on Wednesday.**

### **Next Steps & Expected Reopening**

Temperatures in classrooms are currently mild enough to allow pupils back onsite without heating, once the asbestos team has finished.

The P7 class will relocate to the library while their classroom continues to dry out.

Full repair and replacement of affected pipework for our heating will continue but this can happen whilst the pupils are back in school.

We will maintain regular communication with parents throughout this process.

**Our plan is for pupils to return to school on Thursday, provided the asbestos work is completed and the site is deemed safe.**

**Please note that Remote Work has been provided for the pupils tomorrow should they CHOOSE to do it. This can be found on the school website under**

### **Children – Class Pages**

Thank you for your patience and understanding during what has been an exceptionally challenging period for the school. The wellbeing and safety of our pupils and staff remain our top priority, and we will continue to keep you fully informed as the situation progresses.

Kind regards,

Andy Smyth  
Principal

***PS With regards to Parent-Teacher Interview links – these will be sent when the office is fully functional again (hopefully tomorrow morning for families of 2 or more, and Thursday for everyone else) JB***