



Gold Award



Important Announcement - Friday 9th February 2024

Dear all,

Firstly, a huge thank you for your support over this last week. I understand that it must be frustrating for you not really knowing what is happening at school and having to home school your children. A return to remote learning is never something we ever wanted to reinstate, however it has been necessary in order to ensure our building is safe.

As I promised in my last letter, we are working tirelessly to try and understand the issues that we are dealing with and plan for the safe return of children and staff.

I am aware that questions are being asked as to why school is shut and what future plans will be. This letter will hopefully help to answer some of those questions.

What is the issue?

Over the last week we have been working with North Tyneside Council and structural engineers to investigate areas of concern within the two-storey building at Grasmere Academy. On discovering this, we took immediate action to close the school. Initial sight inspections have been held this week, which have confirmed that the building needs a further in-depth structural survey. I can reassure you however that the rest of the school building is safe (any area that is single storey).

Along with myself, my senior leaders and governors, I know you will want us to be fully confident that the building is completely safe for your children and our staff to return, which is why time needs to be taken to make fully informed decisions.

With this in mind we have a plan to move forward next week, that will allow for some children to return to school and utilise the single storey classrooms - this is phase 1 of our plan. Once we understand the extent of the two storey block damage, we can then move to phase 2 of the children's full return to school. Although timescales for this are unknown, this is likely to be some time after half term.

Once we have received further confirmation of plans for next week and the structural survey that needs to be undertaken, we are hoping to send a letter out tomorrow with organisation for the return of some children on site.

We understand how difficult this time is for our families, it is equally difficult for us to and we are working really hard to resolve this as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your understanding

Kerry Lilico
Headteacher