

Dear all,

As we head into these final few weeks of the school term I wanted to update you on important developments regarding the school building at Buckton Fields, and provide a detailed timeline of what is happening when, as we get ready to move the school back to Buckton.

Details of a parents meeting next week are also enclosed.

### **Update from the Department for Education (DfE) on the current Buckton Fields school building**

This week the DfE informed us and publicly announced that the current building at Buckton Fields needs to be taken down and rebuilt. This is also happening at the other schools which have been impacted by the same issues. (CHECK)

We understand work on our school's new permanent home is scheduled to commence in January, and for completion and opening to pupils by Summer 2026. It is a relief to get this complete clarity on the long-term situation at the site, and enables our continued focus on making sure all our children receive the very best school experience, while our new permanent home is constructed.

This leads me on to the next part of the update.

### **New building delivery this side of Christmas**

We are pleased to share that delivery of our new interim school building will start from December 18, with the hall and kitchen in place by Christmas. Work will then commence on building installation, external works on the playground and landscaping, and all the relevant checks and inspections. Our school team will then get straight into preparing to open, with the Buckton Fields trademark of a nurturing environment ready to support the delivery of fun, creativity and achievement for all our children.

### **New Timeline for Opening**

We have been informed by the DfE that additional work is required on the site to address the presence of Radon gas. We understand that, as result of this additional work, we should expect to be back on site and ready to open to pupils immediately after the February half-term.

To help you understand what is happening and when, we have drafted and enclose a summary of all work taking place from mid-December and through the first half-term of the new year. As follows:

December 18 – Delivery of school buildings begins

January 8 – Internal fit out of school commences

January 11 – Work on pathways and fencing around school begins

January 30 – Year R canopy installed

January 31 – Surfacing for playground and around the site begins

February 5 – Water and power to the new building turned on

February 6 – Testing and commissioning of the building

February 13 – Building control inspection

February 16 – School is ready to welcome back staff and pupils

### **Our new building**

We are really pleased to enclose pictures so you can get a clearer idea of the superb modular building that will become the school's new home while work continues around the existing building. You can see from these pictures the spacious, high spec learning environment that will enable us to provide children with high quality opportunities and experiences, as you rightly expect from the Buckton Fields team.

### **ADD WORDS HERE DEPENDING ON PICS**

#### **Update on existing building**

Paragraph here about what is happening and when we will hear the next update.

#### **Additional leadership capacity from January for Opening**

To give extra support to Mrs Straiton and her team as we prepare for reopening back in the Buckton community, we have brought forward the recruitment of a new Assistant Principal – which had been due to take place next September.

I am delighted that experienced school leader Mr Chris Brenan will be joining us every afternoon from January before transitioning full time into the role later in the year. Chris will be a superb addition to the team. He has previously worked with the Trust prior to leaving for a promotion. We look forward to welcoming him back.

#### **Keeping you up to date**

As ever we are committed to making sure we keep you fully informed of all developments as we continue to work with you to prioritise your children's safety, happiness, and continuity of education.

To this end we will be holding a meeting to discuss this update and take any questions you may have about the final stage of our transition back to Buckton on **Monday December 4, 7pm at Pineham Barns** Primary School. We will also be continuing our weekly Teams call every Wednesday at 5.30pm from December 6th.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible later in the week.

Best wishes