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Education and Families

Rhona Hawthorn
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Dear parent/carers,

You will be aware that Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) was identified in a specific area of the school's roof above the assembly hall/gym and in a small section of the plant room last year. Steel supports were installed last year which can remain in place for many years, however, at a meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee on 5 December 2024, the council will discuss a report which recommends that the roof of this much-loved school is replaced earlier as funding has been identified in the current capital plan.

The following information applies only if the report is approved at committee.

To allow the works to be carried out without major disruption to learning and teaching, it will mean that the entire school community is likely to move to alternative accommodation for up to 12 months, which if approved, would start from Summer 2025, to enable the works to be carried out without interruption to the school year.

If the report is approved, to carry out the work safely, it will be necessary to move the pupils and staff of Ravenswood, on a temporary basis, to the nearby St Mary's Primary School and Nursery, which is located 0.6 miles to the north of this school on Liddel Road. St Mary's Primary School sits within the catchment area of Ravenswood, so the local area and school will be familiar to children and parents/carers. It also has capacity to accommodate the entire Ravenswood Primary, possibly within one level of its existing building, although a number of site visits will be required to make an assessment of the practical arrangements.

We are all very proud of our school and it is important that both schools retain their identities. The proposed temporary move is also an opportunity to benefit from the temporary campus arrangements and make new friendships, while keeping children in their own local community.

I am very positive about the proposal, as is the head teacher at St Mary's, and we are confident that the proposed move will be seamless for the children. In fact, I'm sure the children will find the whole experience very exciting.

Ensuring children are as settled as possible about the move is our priority and if approved, plans will be put in place to ensure the temporary move is a welcoming, nurturing and safe environment for them. This will include site visits prior to the transition, an assessment of road safety, classroom



accommodation and school facilities. There will be no impact on those children who are eligible for school transport.

I anticipate that apart from being based in a different school for a year, there will be no impact on school or learning operations for pupils.

Prior to the proposed transition, visits will be planned for staff and pupils to St Mary's so they can become familiar with the new building. We will also make appropriate arrangements for those children starting with us in Primary 1 in August. Please be assured you will be kept up to date on plans for the move throughout this year.

Although the essential works may be a temporary disruption to our school, we will all work together to make every effort to make this transition harmonious and smooth.

If you do want to know more about RAAC, please take a look at the council's dedicated web page: northlanarkshire.gov.uk/RAAC

I will keep you updated on the details following the committee meeting on 5 December 2024.

Many thanks for your support.

Kind regards,

Rhona Hawthorn
Head Teacher