

Headteacher: Mandi Howells
Top of Muswell Hill
London N10 3ST
020 8444 8488



office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk
Entrance: 26-28 Dukes Ave, N10

3rd June 2019

Dear Community,

I am writing to provide an update on the school grounds.

Unknown materials were discovered in the woodland area and earth bank just before half term, and the areas were immediately closed off.

Haringey Council organised an inspection of the areas over half term, followed by sampling and testing of the materials. This process has confirmed the presence of a small amount of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).

We would like to assure our parents, and the school community that we are confident it is safe for the children to be at the school, and we have taken appropriate steps to ensure the areas remain safe. In addition to the affected areas, as a precaution we have closed off and are testing other outdoor areas too.

Further tests will be carried out this week, outside of school hours. We will know more once these results are back and will provide a further update as soon as we have more information available. We will also hold a community meeting attended by school and council representatives once we have this information.

Please note that as a school we will be explaining to the children that we have to do some work ahead of the Garden and Forest School areas, but we will not be going into any further detail than that.

Unfortunately, there will inevitably be some disruption to after-school clubs while this work takes place. I will write and email the details by the end of the school day today.

I want to reiterate to you that we are confident it is safe for pupils to remain at the school, and that the relevant precautionary measures have been put in place.

Please see the accompanying timeline for more information.

Thank you as always for your support and trust as we deal with this matter and of course I will update you as soon as I receive any further information.

Mandi Howells
Head Teacher



Timeline of outdoor closures and testing:

- The woodland area and earth bank were closed immediately on the afternoon of Thursday May 23rd, following the discovery of a small amount of unknown material.
- Tests were carried out during half term which confirmed these were asbestos-containing materials.
- Further outdoor areas were then closed off over half term as a precaution to allow for further testing. The areas that are closed are the Key Stage 2 grassed areas, pond area and woodland bank areas. The tarmac and astro-pitch areas remain open and unaffected.
- A grid survey will begin on Wednesday June 5 and is expected to continue on June 6 and 7, and possibly through the weekend. This work will be done outside of school hours. It will examine if other areas are affected and, if so, to what extent.
- Once any samples have been taken, the results can take up to eight working days. However, Haringey are exploring how to get this process expedited.
- Further information will be shared with parents and the school community as soon as we have it. When we have the results and any more information to share, we will also hold a meeting for the community, attended by school and council representatives.
- We will also need to assess what work is required once the results are received.
- In the meantime, the school and council will continue to meet and work closely together to ensure this is handled as quickly, and as thoroughly, as possible, and with the best interests of the school's pupils and community in mind.

