



*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

19/10/2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly – thank you to all of the parents that have shown support and understanding regarding the unfortunate situation yesterday that required Norwood School to be closed to ensure the safety of our children and adults.

I would like to provide you with an overview of events as a number of parents have raised concerns over comments and gossip viewed on social media.

Over recent weeks, Peterborough City Council, commissioned works for the school boiler to be replaced. Upon completion we identified an issue with the gas supply to the school kitchen which was a result of a faulty solenoid that had been fitted in the boiler room located to the rear of the building. This impacted upon our ability to provide hot meals Monday and Tuesday of this week. Works were carried out to replace the solenoid on Tuesday afternoon. The work was signed off by the professionals and school was informed that 'business as usual' would resume.

Yesterday morning, the site manager and other staff began arriving on site from 7am and no concerns were raised over the smell of gas in any areas of the school occupied at that time.

Shortly before 8.45, when a door to an area of school (located towards the rear of school and therefore in close proximity to the boiler house) was opened, a 'waft of gas' was identified.

**Staff took appropriate actions to ensure the safety of all and were as follows:**

- Evacuation of the building
- Isolation of the gas supply
- Action taken to inform arrivals to school site of the situation and that school would be closed
- Gathering up the Year 6 children arriving on site without parents/carers and making arrangements to ensure they were returned safely back to parents/carers
- Contact made to Cadent – the appropriate body for concerns regarding gas supply
- Contact made to Peterborough City Council as is protocol for any school closure
- Informed the wider community by text

We are fully aware that any school closure, for whatever reason, has a direct impact upon any working parent/carer, however the safety and wellbeing of our school community is always of paramount importance.

Approximately 9.30am yesterday, the National Grid confirmed that we had a gas leak and Peterborough City Council were informed of the location and required action. The leaks were a result of works carried out to the solenoid, with the rest of site being checked and cleared.

Works were carried out and completed by approximately 3.30pm and site confirmed as safe to operate again as normal for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October (today).

I can also confirm that despite rumours, the works did not require the playground being dug up and that the leak was isolated within the boiler room area.

All unaccompanied Year 6 children arriving on site yesterday morning were gathered together and supervised by a number of Norwood School staff. Contact was made to parents/carers and all children handed back to their responsible adults. Where parents/carers had difficulty in collecting their children we fully supervised them until alternative arrangements were made and where contact via telephone was not possible, staff travelled to the home address to knock on the parent/carers door.

I am sure that a school community you echo my thanks to the proactive staff of Norwood School in dealing effectively and efficiently with a difficult and untimely situation.

Again – thank you to the parents and carers who have supported school and spoken positively about how children were kept safe at all times.

Kind regards

Mrs D Reynolds  
Head Teacher



