

Elemore Hall Site Pittington, Durham. DH6 1QD

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23rd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## School Closure due to water leak

I am writing to you following the recent school closure due to a water leak. First of all let me say thank you for supporting the school by having your child at home unexpectedly during this time. I appreciate that it is far from ideal and I can assure you that it has been a frustrating time for staff who have a packed programme of curriculum and other activities to get through this term, not least rehearsals for the Christmas play and concert.

Elemore Hall relies on a private pipe to supply all water to the school. Last week we noticed that the water meter was spinning around and we were using in one day what we would usually use in ten weeks. The leak reduced the water pressure in the school so that toilet cisterns would not refill and there was insufficient flow to operate the school kitchens. Closure whilst the leak was fixed was the only option.

Finding the leak was not easy. We had engineers on site tracing the pipe along it's route across the field from a mile and a half away with no success. They then began looking near to the school and eventually identified a broken cast iron pipe in the school car park as the cause of the problem. This has now been fixed, the water supply restored and all the large exploring holes have been filled in and tarmacked/concreated where necessary.

The work that the engineers have done should hopefully improve things but I have notified the county council that a more permanent improvement is required which can only be achieved by replacing the pipe with modern materials.

School will reopen fully on Monday 27th November 2023.

Once again, thank-you for your support.

Yours

Richard Royle

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Headteacher