



8th December 2023

To all of the staff and parents/carers at Winter Gardens Academy,

I hope you are all well, festive greetings to you all! It was absolutely brilliant to see the Infant children in their classrooms and learning spaces on Monday morning! As I said in my SEAT Instagram post, the children were so excited but their behaviour was fabulous, I was extremely impressed. Thank you all for your support and understanding during this period, it has really made a positive difference to the team over the last term.



I wanted to give you an update now that children are back using 100% of the school building. As you are aware, we have followed all government direction to mitigate the risk of the Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete (RAAC) being present in the Infant building. The roof area has had 'propping' put in place to ensure the building meets government guidelines and is safe to occupy (something the Junior building already had in place). Myself and our Estates Manager, Paul Ward, are in regular liaison with our Department of Education RAAC Caseworker. The next course of action for the Department of Education is to explore how the RAAC is removed from school buildings across the country over the next few years. They are currently in discussions about this and we will be notified of these plans in due course. When we have further information about this we will communicate this with staff and parents.

It is also worth mentioning that our DfE caseworker has been extremely impressed by how "dynamic" the SEAT team of staff have been in ensuring children have been in face to face education and how quickly the Infant building work has been completed. This is testament to our fantastic team of staff: the leadership team at WGA leading the team through this situation, Paul Ward and Danny Guyon for managing this complex Health and Safety issue, all the staff at Winter Gardens working under such challenging conditions and helping to move out and move back in, and the SEAT Site Managers for helping to ensure furniture etc was moved back in time for the children to use the Infant building. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their outstanding hard work and commitment to the children.

Best wishes,

Catherine Stalham

CEO

