



Baroness Barran

Minister for the School System and Student Finance
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Dear Chris,

Buckton Fields Primary School, Northampton

Further to my letter of 8 June, I am writing to update you on the situation at Buckton Fields Primary School in your constituency.

I previously advised that investigations at Buckton Fields would take place over the summer break in light of concerns raised about the structural safety of the school building. These investigations are now complete and identified a number of serious issues. After careful consideration we have concluded that the school is not safe to be occupied and the buildings should not re-open when the new term begins in September. The school and trust have been informed of this decision.

I understand the significant impact this has on the school community. The project team has been working closely with the school to put in place temporary solutions until a decision is made about the permanent school building. Our top priority is that there should be minimal disruption to education. Face-to-face learning will be in place from the beginning of September at Pineham Barns Primary School, while longer term temporary units are constructed on the Buckton Fields school site. These units are currently programmed to be ready for use from early November 2023. The DfE will be covering the costs resulting from this decision, including the provision of school buses that will take pupils to and from the Buckton Fields and Pineham Barns site, at times to match the regular school day including for breakfast club and after-school club participants.

Further details will be provided to all parents in the coming days and the DfE will continue to support the school to manage this difficult situation.

With best wishes,

Baroness Barran

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