

Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware we have had continual issues with our boiler and heating systems in school.

The school along with all other 87 schools in Stoke-on-Trent are in a Private Finance Contract (PFI) that covers all maintenance of our building. This is a contract between the Stoke-On-Trent local authority and private providers. This means that the school cannot simply call in its own engineers to get the heating repaired but must wait for the PFI contract to approve and begin works.

The autumn term has been incredibly frustrating here at OLSB with continual heating issues. These issues caused a partial closure of the school at the end of November. This morning once again we experienced significant heating issues with no heat being distributed around the school and temperatures significantly below the expected minimums. This left us once again with the very difficult decision needing to be made to close the school. The safety of pupils will always be of paramount importance. When we are unable to get safe working temperatures in school we are simply left with no option but to close the school.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience this causes and thank you all for your co-operation once again this morning.

We hope that these issues will be addressed so that a long term solution can be sought.

In the meantime we have been re-assured that engineers will continue to work with the school to ensure heat is distributed throughout the building.

We will of course keep in contact with you regarding any further developments.

Thanking you once again for your continual support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Clowes'.

Mrs Sarah Clowes
Principal