



Wednesday 14th June 2023

Dear parents and carers,

When we wrote to you on 25th May, we shared that we had received news from the Department for Education that there were issues regarding the Academy's building requiring further tests. As a result, the Department for Education, who manage the building's contract, have been exploring contingency options whilst these tests are underway.

In the attached letter you will find a statement from the Department for Education. This outlines the decision that they have taken that the Primary, ie. Reception cohort, will not open in September 2023 and the reasons for this.

We are deeply saddened by this news. As a Trust and Academy team, we have been working towards the vision of our school since 2016. This is not the outcome that we wanted. It is difficult to be told that, so close to when we should be starting the first chapter of our school, we will not be able to open as planned for reasons beyond our control.

We have worked tirelessly with the Department for Education to support them in seeking temporary solutions to this problem, including proposing alternative venues, but unfortunately these have been concluded as not viable.

I cannot imagine how this might feel for you as parents and carers expecting to be joining the Matford Brook Academy community next year and having this childcare provision. I am incredibly sorry for the upset, worry and frustration that this will inevitably cause for you and your family. It is the last thing that we want.

The Devon Admissions Team have oversight for the next steps for your child's school place. They will be contacting you each separately to discuss your preferences. The contacts are Neil Keen (01392 380326 / neil.keen@devon.gov.uk) or Katie Pateman (01392 383162 / katie.pateman@devon.gov.uk) or via the main line, admissions@devon.gov.uk.

As a team, we will also call you to give you the opportunity to talk to us and to help in whatever way we can. You can also contact us via info@matfordbrook.academy or our number, 01404 793190; please leave your name and a contact number after the automated message and we will contact you.

Families of Nursery-aged children and Year 7 children will be written to separately as there are different outcomes for each phase.

As the building's issues are rectified and the building itself completed, we look forward with hope to when we can open our school fully in the community that we are committed to serving. Although your child's journey with us will not be starting in September, our commitment continues to be to opening our all-through, 2-16 school at the heart of the new community in Haldon Reach. As soon as we are able to, we will be there and hope to still work with you for the best interests of the children, young people and families who are part of our community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Simpson-Horne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Simpson-Horne
Headteacher Designate