

# Stockham Primary School

Stockham Way  
Wantage  
Oxon  
OX12 9HL

Tel: 01235 764407

E mail: [Office.2583@stockham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Office.2583@stockham.oxon.sch.uk)



27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents ad Carers,

Once again thank you for your understanding and cooperation during the last few days. What a few weeks we have had at Stockham!

I am writing to keep you up to date with the process so far. It has been a very busy week.

As you can see from some of the pictures below the flooding that happened caused a lot of disruption and damage to school life. The water was gushing in through the ceilings, walls, skirting boards, internal drains and under the doors.



# Soaring High

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After the weekend the initial clean-up had happened with staff and governors making sandbags and cleaning up inside the building. We were then just waiting for the dehumidifiers to do their job so that we could open the windows in the affected areas to start the airing process as the learning spaces trying to eliminate the acrid, pungent scent. Also, one of the main problems that we were left with was an open manhole in the main KS2 corridor that had burst during the flooding. Obviously, this was a feature that made the learning area within the KS2 corridor not fit for purpose. It needed to be fully replaced and made safe.



I would like take this opportunity to thank the Governors of Stockham School for their support and help with this matter, with writing letters and actually being here in the pouring rain bailing out classrooms. I would also like to thank the staff at Stockham for pulling together for the children. Finally, I would like to thank the parents for their patience, supportive words and amazing offers of help.



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If unfortunately the school floods again the clean-up operation will have to start again. The short-term plan would be that we utilise the hall and turn them into classrooms for the rooms that are more damaged. The internal drain in the corridor is now secure and fit for purpose so that shouldn't cause us a problem going forward.

The longer-term fixes that need to take place to ensure repeated instances of this kind do not re-occur are currently being thoroughly discussed through constant contact and support from OCC. We have from the very start of this recent flooding issue been in contact with several departments of OCC from the School Improvement Team, Buildings and Premises and Health and Safety. The flooding issue is not a new concern at Stockham through further investigation it has actually been happening for many years. However, we are hoping that now something can be done to fix the issues.

We have just received confirmation from OCC that a full drainage survey will be undertaken by OPC as there are big concerns with the amount of surface water that enters the building. We are hoping to schedule this for October half-term as the school needs to be unoccupied when this takes place.

Once that information is received then there will be a programme drawn up with the view to undertaking required works as soon as reasonably practicable. This may involve renewing/replacing large sections of drainage although it will depend on what the survey shows. How any other works will directly affect the school at the moment is still in the discussion stages as that will be a joint project between Stockham School and OCC.

In the meantime, they are also going to provide us with some hydro snakes as they work better than sandbags.

I hope you will appreciate this has been very fast-moving situation and the children are always at the heart of all we do, their wellbeing and their education are the main priorities for all stakeholders at Stockham. We appreciate your ongoing understanding for the staff and please be assured that a huge amount of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure that we do not find ourselves in this situation again.

I also really enjoyed reading the letters that the children wrote from KS2. It was a perfect opportunity to practise those writing skills for a real purpose. There was some really emotive language used. Well done!

Fingers and toes crossed that hopefully the weekend stays dry. Looking forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Monday morning.

With kind regards

*Vikki Marsh-Ballard*



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