1st July 2026

Dear Families of Julian's Primary School,

I wanted to write to you ahead of the Julian's Parent/Carer Forum taking place on Thursday 2 July at 6.30pm at the West Norwood site (16 Wolfington Road, SE27 0JF). I will be attending alongside Cllr Alice Weavers, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Sophie Garner, our Interim Director of Education and Learning.

Before anything else, I want to acknowledge just how difficult the past few months have been for pupils, parents, carers and staff following the devastating fire at Julian's. I know this has been an incredibly unsettling and worrying time for many families, and I appreciate the patience, resilience and understanding you have shown while the school and the Council have worked through the complex challenges involved in recovering from this incident.
Since becoming Leader of the Council a month ago, I have made supporting the Julian's community a priority. I have been closely following the issues that have arisen and have been working with the relevant Council teams to ensure that everything possible is being done to support the school and move the recovery process forward as quickly as we can.

I know that the question foremost in many parents' and carers' minds is when work on the original school building will begin and when children will be able to return. Following the completion of the necessary statutory surveys and the building's drying process we will be able to start procurement shortly. Works are currently expected to commence from 5th October, subject to completion of that process.

The building suffered extensive damage, with more than half affected by water following the fire. While this has inevitably extended the timetable, allowing sufficient time for the building to dry is essential to ensure that repairs can be carried out safely and to a high standard. Based on the current programme, the works are expected to take around six months to complete.

I fully understand that this news will be disappointing and frustrating for many of you. Every parent wants to see their child back in their school as soon as possible, and I want to assure you that the Council is continuing to work closely with the school's leadership to minimise delays wherever we can and to support the Julian's community throughout this process.

I am looking forward to meeting you on 2 July to hear your questions, listen to your concerns and provide further updates. I know that trust is built through openness, and I am committed to keeping families informed and ensuring we continue to work together as we navigate the months ahead.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Chris Davies, Chair of Governors, and Alison Moller, Executive Headteacher, whose leadership, dedication and tireless commitment have been invaluable throughout this incredibly challenging period. I would also like to thank all of the staff at Julian's for the care and support they have continued to provide for your children despite the exceptional circumstances.



Kind regards
Cllr Martin Abrams

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