



# PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

DEANWOOD DRIVE  
RAINHAM  
GILLINGHAM, KENT, ME8 9LP  
HEADTEACHER: MR A MOIR



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Dear Parents

Today I took the extremely difficult decision to close the school, as a matter of safety. We were contacted urgently as a result of a routine tree survey, which we regularly commission as a school, to say that two trees at the front of the school site, one by the entrance and one by the building, were in need of urgent work and were not safe.

We considered a number of options in terms of the wider site and using other areas and access arrangements. But in order to keep all children and adults safe and to allow the urgent removal of the trees to take place as well as the necessary plant and machinery this will involve to access the site (and to minimise the alarm which might be caused in the unlikely event a tree were to come down), we have chosen to send the children home, so that they are safe, and to close the school until Monday.

I am sure there will be a significant view that doing this is an overreaction or that in sending the children home early it was a surprise and an inconvenience. The vast majority of parents arrived quickly and were very supportive as we got all the children to exit the site.

The alternative would have been an under reaction, which would be to ignore the advice given and to hope that all will be well. Should this have been the case and should any child or adult have been hurt or worse in this scenario, then I am certain that the consequences, compared to two days of inconvenience, would have been far more damaging and distressing and not a risk I would have been willing to accept.

I would ask for and hope for Parents support in this matter, both in person and on social media. When considering the options available, as head, I will always choose the one which puts safety and sometimes the difficult decision first, rather than the easy or popular decision.

Many thanks for Parents prompt and supportive response and I look forward to the children returning to the school on Monday.

Mr A Moir

Headteacher

Mrs S Emson