

Whitley Lodge First School

Woodburn Drive
Whitley Bay
NE26 3HW
0191 607 6575

office@whitleylodgefirst.org



Thursday 14 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of recent coverage regarding temporary classroom and school closures across North Tyneside linked to a national product recall of play sand and the potential presence of asbestos.

On Monday, as a precautionary measure, we temporarily closed our Nursery classroom and arranged for prompt specialist asbestos testing of the play sand in Nursery.

Children within the Nursery environment were already using the alternative entrance through White Class door and did not re-enter the nursery classroom that day.

The test identified a positive result for the sand and immediate action was taken. The sand was safely removed by safety experts in line with strict national asbestos guidelines, and the area then underwent a thorough professional deep clean.

Throughout the process, air samples consistently tested negative for airborne asbestos. At 8pm on Monday night, following expert advice from North Tyneside Council, the Nursery classroom was safely brought back into operation, and with no ongoing risk in this area.

We understand that this situation may cause concern, and we want to provide reassurance that we have taken advice from North Tyneside Council, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) North East and the Health and Safety Executive. Their guidance is that the overall risk to health is low.

As you know, we will always take a cautious, safety-first approach and act quickly to protect our school community. We want to reassure you that the safety and wellbeing of children and staff is always our highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding for your continued support.

Jennifer Palmer
Headteacher

Bryan Stewart
Acting Chair of Governors