



05 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Sewer flooding alleviation, Wellsway, Keynsham

You will be aware that over the summer Wessex Water has commenced a project to deliver improvements to the sewer network and alleviate sewer flooding in Keynsham.

We have been liaising with Councillor Andy Wait in recent weeks, with regards to the impact of the road closure and use of the diversion route; we are aware that some road users have been ignoring the diversion, leading to congestion building up on Chandag Road. Naturally, motorists are seeking the shortest route but are often unfamiliar with Chandag Road. Our understanding is the work is progressing well and should be completed by the end of September/early October 2023.

With the return of all our students later this week, we are writing to ask for your support and raise awareness with your son/daughter of their road safety.

We are aware that many parents need to make a journey to our schools to drop their children, as they have no alternative means of transporting them. We would ask you to consider ways you could support reducing pressure, for example by sharing transport with other parents or, where practicable, your son or daughter walking using a bike or public transport to make their journey.

As schools we are looking at ways for our staff to also support our community by seeking alternative ways to travel to work or alternative areas to park in.

As this is the start of the academic year, we will be highlighting with our students' safe ways to travel and would ask that you discuss their personal road safety with them and to make them aware that they may be crossing busier roads. We would also welcome you reminding your child to walk in a pair or group where possible, not to walk with headphones in so that they are aware of what is going on around them, to keep to main roads where possible and to not stop to talk to strangers.

The entry and exit of 2000 students, all adds to the potential danger for our students, and we hope by working together as a community we can reduce the potential for our students to be put at risk by highlighting this matter with you.

We have attached the latest press release from Wessex Water for your information.

Councillor Wait has also requested the support of our local police team; parents and carers will be reassured that our PCSOs will be visiting the area in the coming week to support our students.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Extra measures in place for Keynsham project as new school year gets under way

Road users in Keynsham are being reminded to consider extra time for their journeys with the new school year getting under way as work continues on a major sewer flood alleviation scheme in the town.

The 12-week project to install a new gravity relief sewer installed along a 170-metre stretch of the B3116 Wellsway near Keynsham Cricket Club, connecting two separate systems in a bid to reduce incidents of sewer flooding in nearby streets and homes, is progressing well towards its early October finishing date

The £500,000 work, which started in July, was timed to ensure the majority of it coincided with the school summer holidays, keeping disruption to local people to a minimum.

With the new school year getting under way this month and traffic volumes expected to increase, Wessex Water have stepped in with extra measures to ensure road users are aware that the road remains shut to through traffic and that the diversion route in place remains clearly marked.

The diversion route, using the B3116 (Wellsway and Burnett Hill), A39, and A4 Bath Road, was agreed with Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and remains in place while the work is taking place.

A Wessex Water spokesperson said: "This important project is progressing well and we are continuing to assess its impact and the construction programme to ensure we can safely complete it as quickly as possible.

"Working with Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) we've been continuing to monitor the impact of the road closure and use of the diversion and are installing additional signs to ensure the alternative route is clearly marked for road users to try and prevent any congestion building up on nearby local side roads.

"We have also been in contact with local councils, council members and schools, including the Wellsway School, to remind them of the closure in place and the diversion route.

"This scheme is aiming to address historical issues with flooding in the residential neighbourhood around Wellsway and we thank the local community for their patience while it is completed and are sorry for any inconvenience caused."

Yours sincerely,

Rob Pearsall
Headteacher Wellsway School and
Executive Head of School IKB Academy

Pete Headeach
Head of School
IKB Academy

Davina Lucas
Headteacher
Chandag Primary School