

18th December 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your interest in Watling Meadows Primary School. It has been a genuine pleasure to meet many of you and your children over the past few weeks at the different events that we have run, and we are very much hoping to be welcoming them into our very first Reception cohort in September 2026.

With the primary admissions deadline approaching on 15th January, I am writing to give you an update regarding the completion date of our brand-new school building.

While the construction of the Watling Meadows school building is progressing well, we have been informed that it will not be ready in time for the September 2026 opening. As a result, and to ensure that your child's education begins smoothly and without disruption, we have been working carefully on a robust contingency plan.

Our Contingency Plan

Even though the new building will not be ready in time, **Watling Meadows Primary School will still open as planned in September 2026.** This will be done on the site of our new secondary school, Higham Lane North Academy. This arrangement would only be for a temporary period, most likely for the autumn term, while final works on the new school building are completed.

Reassurance for Families

We want to reassure you that:

- ✓ Watling Meadows Primary School will be opening in September 2026 for Reception pupils as planned
- ✓ Your child will be taught by the permanent Watling Meadows staff team from day one, and Darren Barrow (Headteacher) will be starting to recruit his staff team in January.
- ✓ Watling Meadows and Higham Lane North pupils will be kept separate at all times
- ✓ The curriculum, ethos and identity of Watling Meadows will be fully established from the start, and there will be specialist early years spaces (including outdoor areas) set up
- ✓ Moving into our permanent building will be carefully planned once it is ready

What Happens Next?

We will continue to share updates with families via our newsletters and social media as soon as specific arrangements are confirmed. We are committed to keeping communication open and supportive throughout this process.

If you have any questions or would like further reassurance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Dickinson
CEO
Central England Academy Trust

Chief Executive Officer: Andrew Dickinson

Watling Meadows Primary School – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 2026 Reception Intake

Will Watling Meadows Primary School definitely open in September 2026?

Yes. We are fully committed to opening Watling Meadows Primary School in September 2026 for our first Reception cohort. This will go ahead as planned.

Why might the school not open on the new site straight away?

While construction is progressing well, current timelines indicate that the new building will not be fully completed and ready for safe occupation by September 2026. To avoid any disruption to children's education, we have prepared a careful contingency plan.

What is the contingency plan?

Watling Meadows Primary School will operate temporarily from the site of Higham Lane North Academy, our new secondary school. This is expected to be for the autumn term, while final works are completed.

Will my child still be attending Watling Meadows Primary School?

Yes. Even while on the temporary site, your child will:

- Be a fully enrolled Watling Meadows pupil
- Be taught by the Watling Meadows staff team
- Follow the Watling Meadows curriculum
- Be part of the Watling Meadows school community

The temporary location will not change your child's school allocation.

Is Higham Lane North Academy a safe place for young children?

Yes. Higham Lane North Academy is a modern, well-designed and secure school site with excellent facilities. We will ensure:

- Dedicated space for Reception children
- Safe arrival and exit arrangements
- Age-appropriate outdoor learning and play areas
- Careful separation from older pupils at all times

Children's safety and wellbeing will remain our highest priority.

How long will the school stay on the temporary site?

Current expectations are that this will be for the autumn term, but we will confirm exact timescales as soon as they are known.

What will the move to the permanent building look like?

The transition to the new site will be:

- Carefully planned
- Fully supported by staff
- Communicated clearly with parents in advance
- Designed to be exciting and positive for children

We will make the move feel like a natural next step in the school's journey.

Does this affect the admissions process?

No. Families should continue to apply for Watling Meadows Primary School in the normal way through the Local Authority admissions process. Your application remains valid regardless of the temporary site arrangement.

How will parents be kept informed?

We are committed to open and honest communication. Families will receive:

- Regular updates by email
 - Website announcements
 - Parent information events and transition meetings
 - Opportunities to ask questions directly
-

Who can I contact if I have questions now?

You are very welcome to contact us at:

vmckay@centralengland.co.uk
02476 740932

We are happy to talk through any individual questions.