

Main Arm Upper Public School

Works notification | 28 November 2024

Dear parents, carers and staff,

As an update to our notification last week (see below), the damaged tree in the school grounds will be removed from next **Wednesday 4 December 2024 until Friday 6 December 2024**, weather permitting.

This timeline is based on contractor and equipment availability and to ensure the tree is removed as soon as soon as possible.

Due to the use of equipment and a large crane on the school site, students and staff must remain off-site for safety reasons. The school will communicate to parents about alternative learning arrangements for these days.

We anticipate that Main Arm Upper Public School will resume usual operations on Monday, December 9, 2024. The administration and toilet blocks, which have been temporarily closed due to the ongoing risk posed by overhanging tree branches, will re-open once they have been cleaned.

Again, thank you for your patience during the past two weeks. We understand how disruptive it has been and have been working to minimise the impact on the school as much as possible.

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Dear parents, carers and staff,

We have been working with the school and contractors to repair and make the school grounds and buildings safe after the discovery of mould in the Year 3-4 classroom on 12 November 2024, and a large branch falling on the covered walkway on 13 November 2024. An update is below:

Year 3-4 classroom

The Year 3-4 classroom has been fully cleaned and repaired. Repairs included fixing a leaking wall panel and replacing the affected subfloor. The classroom was also deep cleaned under the supervision of an occupational hygienist. Students returned to their classroom on Wednesday, 20 November. Thank you for your patience during this process.

Removal of the damaged tree

An arborist's assessment has found that the damaged fig tree has fungal activity and decay, making the risk of more falling branches "unacceptable". The remaining branches will need to be removed to ensure the safety of students and staff and protect school buildings.

Following the arborist's recommendation, areas of the school within the fall zone of the tree's branches will remain out of bounds until the tree is removed. This includes the administration building and toilets.

We are aiming to undertake the work as soon as possible and will coordinate with the school to minimise disruption, but the timing will depend on crane availability and weather conditions.

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As the work needs a crane and tree removal equipment, the pruning will need to be done when there are no students or staff on site. It is expected to take three days. We will let the school know as soon as we can confirm the schedule.

Temporary toilets will remain on site until the work is finished, and administration staff will continue to work from the school library.

Walkway repair

The covered walkway and school grounds damaged by the fallen branch will be repaired once the tree and debris has been completed. We will work with the school about when this work can occur.

Thank you for your patience while we undertake this important work. We know that the tree is an important part of the Main Arm Upper Public School grounds, but our main goal is to keep students, staff, and visitors safe and prevent any more damage to the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the department at the details below.