**High Well School RAAC statement 5th September 2023**

**To all Parent/Carers**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; but because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach to our school buildings.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. The DfE have given advice on how we, as a school can do a basic test to check for RAAC and after doing these tests we have found nothing that raises any concerns. However, as we prefer to be sure, we are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know immediately, and we will put contingencies in place. Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on pupils is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

The DfE will shortly be offering the school access to surveyors who will help us do structural checks quickly but we do not have a timescale as yet. We will write to you again after the structural tests have taken place to confirm their findings.

I hope that this advice offers you some reassurance in the interim.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Coates

Acting Headteacher