



St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

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Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

Headteacher Mr A Lincoln BA Hons

Executive Headteacher Mr D Etherton B.Ed Hons. NPQH

Friday 28th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Important Premises Update – Major Refurbishment Project

Refurbishment

When the school expanded from one form of entry to two forms of entry, we worked with the Local Authority to extend the school office, extend the main hall, build the small hall and add a staff room. We were also closely involved in the design of 'The Ark', where years 1-4 are currently based, which opened in 2017. This project was overseen by the Local Authority and has provided us with excellent accommodation for our pupils.

Whilst we are delighted with the layout of The Ark, issues have arisen that have allowed water to ingress into the building structure and cause problems. Extensive surveys have been undertaken and identified the need for substantial modifications to the roof and external cladding and to rectify the damage that has been caused by the water ingress.

We are working in partnership with the Local Authority who retain responsibility for latent defects in The Ark. We have also been working closely with Kier Construction Ltd, together with other external consultants, to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff and rectify the problems.

There will be an extensive refurbishment programme commencing shortly to rectify these issues. There will also be some significant improvements made to The Ark including new carpets and redecoration.



Temporary Accommodation

In order to enable this refurbishment to be undertaken, we will have to completely vacate The Ark for a year so that contractors can safely undertake the essential works.

During the summer holiday, we will have 8 temporary mobile classrooms installed on the Fir Tree Playground. This will consist of two blocks of 4 classrooms with two classrooms on the ground floor and two on the first floor of each block. As for the Ark, Years 1 and 2 will be on the ground floor and Years 3 and 4 will be on the upper floor.



The refurbishment will mean that our usual access in and around the school will change. Children may enter and leave the building in a different way. The refurbishment project will cover the cost of improving access in and around the school which will be a long term benefit. We will also have some new office spaces / small group rooms created in the main building to compensate for loss of such facilities in The Ark.

As much of the Fir Tree Playground will be covered in temporary accommodation, we will have a new playground installed on the front field.

Preparatory Works

To enable this project to start promptly in the summer holidays, some preparatory works will be undertaken during the summer term. This may include the installation of new play equipment and new paths as well as setting up a builders' compound on the main field.

Project Management

The school/trust has significant experience in handling complex building programmes and we have been working with Kier Construction Ltd and the Local Authority for over a year to plan this project to minimise the impact on our children's education, well-being and safety.

Kier have extensive experience working in live school environments and will, at all times, be respectful and seek to keep disruption to a minimum.

The health and safety of all of our children, staff and visitors remain our top priority. Extensive risk assessments and planning have, and will be undertaken, to ensure the safety of all throughout the project.

Governors have given this project a high priority and Trustees have been kept well-informed.



Transition

We are aware that change can be a challenge for some children. However, we hope to generate some excitement with new play equipment and playground. We will involve the children in naming the new playground and accommodation as well as creating some large scale artwork to go on the hoardings.

We also hope to create video tours at the end of the summer holidays so that children can 'see' the new routes and temporary classrooms before starting school again in September.

A professional moving company will move furniture and resources from The Ark to the temporary accommodation ready for September. However, we will need an extra 'INSET' day to enable staff to set up classrooms. This means that the first day for children will be **Tuesday 5th September 2023**.

DIY Day

In the Autumn we had a couple of very successful 'DIY Days' where parents, staff and friends of the school undertook an amazing array of projects to make our school a better place for our children. I hope that many of you will join our next DIY Day – date (and weather!) to be confirmed.

Further Information

We will give you more information about all of this in due course. If you have any questions, please be in touch.

Kind regards

Mr Etherton

Executive Headteacher

