



Dear Parents,
Welcome to this week's edition of the M'bk Parent Comms.

Despite the weather a couple of weeks ago, it feels like spring is on its way...though at the time of writing, the heavens have opened!

Amongst other news, as promised, this week's Comms sets out the various developments and changes brought about by the relocation of Reception to the Primary site and more latterly, the ludicrous planning suggestions levied by the flood officers. Some of the work needed to secure these developments has already begun around the site and as the Summer Term fast approaches, it is time now to drive forward with enthusiasm so that we are fully prepared for the new academic year in September as we mean to go on.

First and foremost, I have made the decision to withdraw the planning application for the sports hall / pavilion. The proposed building has gone from a relatively affordable large multi-purpose space to a two story (and now cost prohibitive) monster of a build that can ONLY be used for sports during inclement weather! Furthermore, the purpose of the second story is to allow for the 'safe evacuation of children' when the school floods even though they are not onsite and the school is closed during the rare occasions it is inaccessible! Thousands of pounds have already been spent on several flood risk assessments, consultants and specialists and my view it is time to draw a line under it all and work with what we have. This way, money can be allocated to projects within our control.

Having had surveyors to explore the mezzanine idea, this too has been ruled out.

So...what we have and *can* control is a wonderful light, child friendly building set in over 6 acres, excellent staff and a tried and tested approach to tailor-made education.

We will be making better use of the indoor spaces by creating additional teaching areas and a separate cloakroom area for Yr 6 children and our outdoor provision will be the best around. We will also be making use of some existing areas to create a new art studio and DT workshop. Hot lunches are back on the agenda too and news on that will be issued next week. After careful evaluation, the structure of the school and staff deployment will remain unchanged, i.e. Reception plus 3 combined classes (1/2, 3/4, 5/6) and class numbers also remain stable with all classes catering for a maximum of 18/20 (decided according to the individual cohort / teaching staff in any given year). This model has been successful for many years and continues to provide the best outcomes. The only staffing change will be greater teaching support in Yr 3 & 4 provided by the introduction of an HLTA role, as we have seen how effective it is in Yr 5&6. See the next page for a brief summary of works planned and email with any questions. Until then....

Serena

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(Afterschool Club) from next term from 3.40pm-5.00pm to support our working parents. The cost of this

session will be £10 and only those that can pick up BY 5.00pm can be signed up. Children who attend other clubs can also make use of ASC between 4.40pm and 5.00pm at a cost of £3.50. Izumi will be running this club Monday – Friday (numbers dependant) and more info will be provided once we have a clearer idea of requirement. NB: Children who are collected late from any club ending at 4.40pm will automatically be transferred to the ASC and parents charged the full rate of £3.50. This is so staff can be released on time. Clubs lists will be on the notice boards today at primary to confirm which children have secured places (remember it was first come first served) to their chosen clubs and we would ask that anyone wanting to sign up for ASC contacts Joy by email by WEDNESDAY. Due to a lack of take up, Spanish will not be happening and Science Club attendees...we have been informed that the topics will be the same as last term!

SECONDARY SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

Huge Congratulations to all of our Yr 6 children on their wonderful achievements in securing the following places:

**Upton Grammar
Leighton Park School
Gordons Grammar
Reading School (Grammar)
Charters Ascot
The Piggott School (chosen over Royal Grammar High Wycombe)
Salesian Independent College**

Facebook round up...

Plenty of smiling faces from World Book Day and of course Mother's Day made it on to our Facebook

pages last week. If you are not on FB, some of these can be seen by scrolling to the bottom of the website. If you are, please can you 'share' as much as possible? It would really help us to spread the word to friends and family. If 50 or so parents did this it would be seen by 1000's of people.

OTHER NEWS...



Football Club Reminder...

All children who participate in afterschool football club must wear shin pads,

football boots and appropriate kit. Not all the children are bringing shin pads and for safety reasons it is now compulsory.

Tax-free childcare scheme by HMRC

The government are inviting parents to sign up for tax-free childcare. For every £8 spent they will pay an additional £2 towards your cost of childcare (this covers afterschool care/clubs and not fees).

Please visit: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/eligibility>

Meadowbrook Tuck Shop (A year 6 venture!)

Some members of Year 6 (Louise and James) have re-introduced tuck shop. Children can bring a small amount of pocket money and spend it at will. Tuck shop runs every Tuesday. Many things for under 70p.

REMINDER Parent Child Days 4.30 – 5.30 @ pre 13th & 14th March

Chinese Hot Lunch @ pre Thursday 15th March - see signup sheet

WELL DONE Yr 5 & 6...Today's swimming lesson proved a useful introduction to basic life saving techniques!



SUMMARY OF INDOOR DEVELOPMENTS...

Divide U.P (upper primary) to create 2 separate classrooms (accessed by new corridor) each 'new classroom' will benefit from its own specialist teaching area, smartboard and computer bench. (For the summer term)

In L.P (lower primary) divide a corner to create a separate area (also to serve as a specialist or quiet teaching room. The sink will be relocated to near the kitchen door at the end of a new corridor. (For the summer term)

These changes will mean specialist teachers (music, French etc.) will travel to each class thus avoiding

additional children from other year groups moving through classrooms. New furniture will be purchased for some classes to create more useable and flexible seating areas.

Part of SG's office to become a small sickbay and eventually additional cloakroom area for Yr 6 children's cubbies. (Sickbay for the summer term / Yr 6 cloakroom space for September term)

SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR DEVELOPMENTS...

Already underway the wildlife garden is being completely fenced off so that the children can once again have free access. (Complete this week)

A large raised growing garden behind the large shed will be made with picket fencing around it. Each class will have their own raised bed area to cultivate. (For the summer term)

Chickens will be reinstated at primary for the children to collect and sell



eggs and learn a little about animal husbandry. As we speak, our 'chicken management committee' are busy deciding on the best possible placement of our new feathered friends! (For the summer term or sooner....point of lay hens not ready for collection until end of month / coup ordered)



Two outdoor classrooms including sheltered teaching spaces will be created during the summer term for

launch in September. Each will include the following features: bench seating, outdoor blackboard, cable



reel tables (arriving today!) for outdoor writing with log stools (ready by the end of the week).

A large community log circle, eco-warriors area including re-cycling/compost area for lunch left overs as well as a water butt. (Ready for next term or sooner).

The raising of our existing fire pit to allow for more regular use. (This term)

The creation of a sensory garden with water fountain. (Ready for the September term)

The reinstatement of our existing fenced off pond area with dipping platform. (September term or sooner) A gate to access the Cut is also

being built for the same purpose. (This term – nearly complete)

Fenced off garden for L.P and canopy to allow for outdoor learning all year round. This area will also include mud kitchen. (Ready for summer term)

All play equipment from pre is being rebuilt onto the primary site. (Ready for summer term)

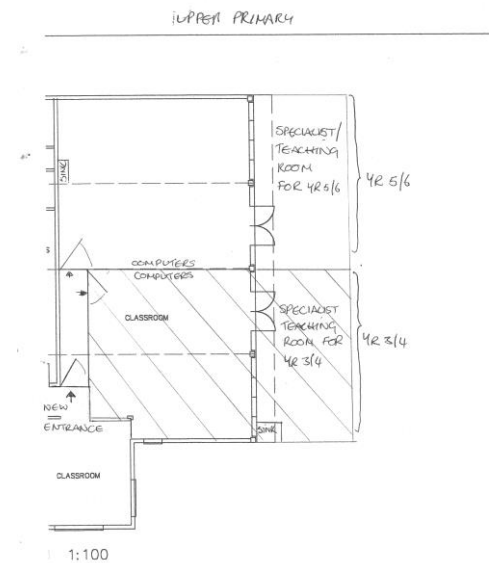
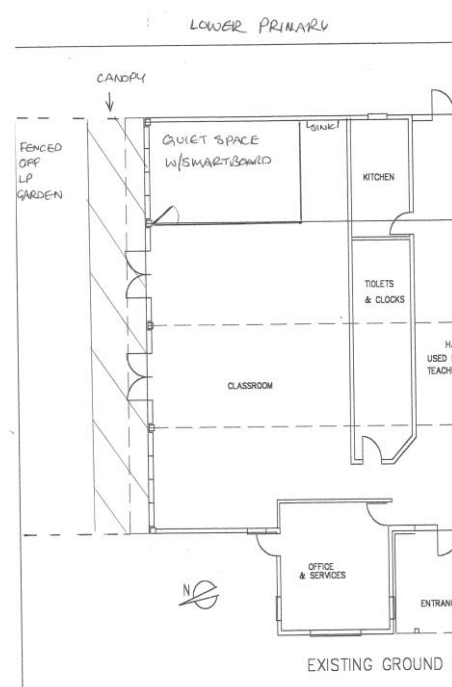
An existing building to be used as art studio / DT workshop. (For the September term)

Essential tree safety work carried out (complete today) in the wildlife area has created some wonderful new spaces with more bug hotels, a hideout for the children, a large seat made out of a giant trunk and several benches.

In addition, an application is being drawn up for the erection of a large 'shelter' which can be used as an undercover area. Christmas and Summer events will happen here as heating and sides can be designed into the shelter at a later stage.



Sketches showing divides in LP and UP



Q & A's – Where will events such as Mother's Day take place?

A - Many of the events we hold can happen outside using either the proposed shelter or a marquee erected for the purpose. Christmas Carols and Academic Evening for example both used to occur outside, under the stars. For events where an outdoor venue would not be suitable such as Celebration of Age of Mother's Day, each class will take it in turns to hold their performance in the Atrium for their invited guests.

Q - Will the children still be able to work in other classes?

A - Yes, for those children that benefit from moving around the school, freedom to work with other children and in other classes will remain.

Q - Will the classes be able to use the specialist teaching rooms when not being used for such lessons?

A - Yes, these areas are for the sole purpose of each year group.

Q - With all the developments outside, will the children have more opportunities to use these areas?

A - Yes. All teachers have been asked to re-work their curriculums to ensure that across the board, use of the outdoor environment can be daily. *Littlemuddyboots* is also helping by providing half termly Forest School days to each class.

Q - How can we help?

A - Choose 1 of the planned developments for the next FoMM target