
Old Church C.E. (C) Primary School
School Street
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Headteacher: Ms D Clacy



Dear Parents

September 2019 Newsletter

Welcome back to school. I hope that you had a fantastic summer and made some unforgettable memories with your lovely children.

Buiding Expansion

My memories of the summer will unfortunately be one of tearing my hair out over the expansion. It has been an absolute nightmare and it was touch and go until Tuesday afternoon if we opened or not. I have called the fire officer and health and safety representatives in from the council to ensure that the school is safe. They have given me the go ahead to open. The main problem is that the work is weeks behind and they are still drilling on site and classrooms have not been completed.

At this stage I have to thank Mr and Mrs Spittle for spending nearly every day of the holiday in school with me in order to get the school open. They have worked tirelessly and provided me with coffee when I needed it. The staff have also been amazing and very patient. My Chair of Governors, Claire Clift has also been monitoring the situation closely and been a tremendous support.

As it stands at the moment the following has happened:

- 1 classroom has been refurbished which is Ms Holl's room. We are still waiting for some fixtures and fittings.
- Mrs Armstrong's room has not been refurbished as planned due to problems getting the equipment in to where they have to drill down.
- The new classroom at the back of school has not been started.
- The new buildings at the front have not been started.
- The ground works have started on the back and front of the school and it is resembling a bomb site.

To get the children back into school we have put the following in place. It is not ideal but please be patient as I have been instructed by health and safety what I have to do to open the school.

- We have two temporary Portacabins on the playground which will house Year 5/ 6. The lower one will be used for music lessons for children throughout the school.
- All drilling work has been temporarily suspended as I feel it is not safe to take place whilst the children are in school. I have asked for the contractors to come up with an alternative solution.
- The offices are now in the Ralph Bayley House. I have connected the majority of classrooms with a telephone so at least we can limit the movement between school and the house. Please call school rather than coming into the office if you need anything.

- Dorsett Rd remains shut until at least December.
- Reception children have a temporary cloakroom. It is not ideal but I have purchased lockers to keep their items safe. They are mould proof so will be fine with wet clothes.
- Parents are to drop off children in the morning by their cone in the playground. Staff will then escort the children only to their classes. Nursery and Reception will filter through the door under the canopy. Parents will not be allowed past the bunny enclosure. Again this is not ideal but this is limiting the flow of people through school as we have lost two entrances. LSAs will be on the playground to take messages for teachers as they will escort the children in safely.
- Please can parents park their cars on the Social Club and walk down to school. The site has been made worse by contractors coming to and from school.
- The Hall. The fire officer has limited the number of children using the hall due to us not being able to use a fire escape. This means that until further notice we cannot have whole school assembly or events in the hall. Sandwich children will all eat in their classrooms, including Healthy Packed Lunches.

Breakfast Club

The latest a child can be dropped off at Breakfast club is 8:15. Under no circumstances will we accept any child after 8:15. You will be asked to wait with your child on the playground until staff collect children at 8:40 am. There will be no exceptions.

New Staff

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new staff Ms Norton, Mrs Armstrong, Ms Pate and Mrs McCooe to school.

Apparatus

Any play equipment outside is not to be used before school in the morning by the children. We want to make sure that we have a prompt start in the mornings and we all know how difficult it is to persuade children to come in once they are on the apparatus.

Diary Dates

We have attached dates for the academic year. There is one more training day to arrange as soon as we know the availability of the speaker.

Thank you for your patience today. Things can only improve! I know the end results will be amazing. The projected finish is December 6th. I have asked which year though with a smile on my face and gritted teeth!