

21st July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Summer building work

With the new houses being built around the town, the school is expanding and the governors anticipate that there will be more children coming into the school in the next few years as more housing becomes available in the area. As a result funding has been made available to ensure that the school can accommodate an increase in numbers. St. Mary's Primary School is built as a two form entry school and therefore should be able to accommodate two classes in each year group.

Over the summer there will be some exciting developments at the school and we are very fortunate to have secured funding both from the developers and the Diocese who have supported us very generously over the last four years. Unfortunately, I have not been in a position to communicate this to parents until this week as we have only just finalised the schedule with the contractors.

We will be expanding the KS1 playground to provide more play space for the number of KS1 children. We will also be replacing the canopies outside Cherry, Lime and Pear classes to provide better and bigger outdoor learning and play areas which can be used by the children throughout the whole year.

Last summer we turned one of the spare rooms in KS1 back into a classroom (Pear class) and this summer one of the classrooms, currently used as the staffroom, will be turned back into a classroom in Year 3 and 4. This is necessary work to accommodate the number of children coming up from Key Stage 1. All of the KS2 toilets will also be refurbished with new cubicles and redecorated.

We will also be carrying out some work on the Den. In order to create a new staffroom a small extension will be added to the side of the Den and part of the Den will be used to create the new staffroom. The governors and I fully understand that members of the school community will be concerned about any alterations to the Den and it was not a decision we took lightly. We looked for other alternatives but the only solution with the funds available to us was to use existing space more creatively. The Den will still be a good sized library for a school of our size. All the books will still be available to the children, the murals will be there and children will still be able to go in and use the space as it was intended. I can fully assure parents that the children's access to reading and books will not be compromised as a result of this work.

We have everything crossed that the works will be finished by the end of the summer, however there is a possibility that some of the work will need to continue into the first week of the September term. This will not

interrupt normal service and we anticipate that we will be ready to welcome the children back at the start of the new term!

Mr Knight will still be running Sports Clubs at the school on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout August.

On behalf of all the staff at school I wish you a very happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Jo Woolley

Mrs Woolley