



West Sussex County Council

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Headteacher Mrs Claire New

24th April 2015

Increased Intake of Pupils at East Preston Infant School

Introduction

There is currently a severe shortage of school places nationally and this is being felt acutely in our area. West Sussex County Council (County) has stated that owing to increased birth rate and migration into the area, there is a significant deficit in reception places in the coming academic year (2015/16).

The Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body of East Preston Infant School (EPIS) have been informed by County that we will have an intake of 80 pupils in the next academic year (2015/16). The new academic intake numbers were only confirmed on April 16th.

This will mean we have to expand our school to accommodate the increase in numbers. This will take the form of a temporary double “pod” modular classroom which will be sympathetic to our school ethos and accessibility plan. This will consist of two classrooms, toilets and cloakrooms. It will be positioned next to the reception playground. The design of this modular classroom will be bespoke to the school but some examples of modern “pods” can be found on the EPIS website (as a guide only).

Consideration

It is clear that the arrival and installation of the temporary classroom could present challenges. During this process the school, together with County, will work to ensure that the quality of education and the welfare, safety and security of pupils continues to be given the highest priority.

The Architect and Contractors are experienced with working on school sites. The proposed site access is to the west of Rascals and therefore not through the playground. This will enable the school to continue to function normally during the building process.

What Happens Next?

County has begun working with the Head Teacher and the Governing Body to form a brief for this installation. The school has been involved in these very early stages with the County appointed design team who have drafted architectural plans. The school has entered into a dialogue with County and their appointed Architects to modify these suggestions to ensure the best use of space and provide the greatest benefit for the pupils, staff and parents of our school. It is currently proposed by County that a further 3 or 4 classrooms may be built during the following academic year (2016/17) following a public consultation, dependent on projected admission figures.

Conclusion

Owing to the significance of the proposed changes, a Premises Committee has been formed from Governors and Staff. This Committee is very keen to hear any suggestions or concerns that you may have. We cannot answer them personally, but we will endeavour to place answers as we have them on the website. Please contact us using the email address below:

episbuildingexpansion@gmail.com

This Committee will be regularly placing information and updates on the school website concerning the installation of the pods and any related information.

It would be GREATLY appreciated if any concerns or questions you may have are directed to the email address above and not through teachers or office staff whose priority must be teaching and the day-to- day running of the school.

The Head Teacher, Staff and Governing Body of East Preston Infant School are keen to continue working together to provide the best education, safest environment and happiest experience for our children at East Preston Infant School and are always grateful of your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Claire Sayers
Chair of Governors



Claire New
Headteacher

On behalf of the Governing Body
East Preston Infant School