

*Q1. Will the KS1 playtimes be effected by the extension of the Early Years area?*

ANSWER: The fencing proposed for EYFS does not impinge on the playground. There is an area under trees that is used during hot and dry weather periods that would be affected. There are possible scenarios that mean the EYFS development will effectively increase outdoor play facility. We are considering using the KS1 playground purely for Y1 and Y2 in 2018/19 and Y1 and Y2 in 2019/20. This means that for a 12 month period we will have fewer children on the KS1 playground and this will return to existing levels in 2019/20. From 2020 we are intending to review playtime timetables so that at one point of the day KS1 will be using both playgrounds and at another point of the day KS2 will be able to use both playgrounds whilst KS1 children are in class.

*Q2. How will the new entry gate system deal with Ducklings visitors visiting the site whilst children are on the playground?*

ANSWER: The entry system proposed will provide school with far better control over school visitors who will not be able to have any potential access to children on the site. Ducklings presently run a flexible collection system and we are working with Ducklings to find a solution as to how this can be better managed. We are looking at camera controls and changes to timetables so that access is not achievable when children are on the playground.

*Q3. How much progress has been made so far?*

ANSWER: Presently, the plans are under planning application. As this is a school led project, we are looking for external support in order to achieve delivery of the designs as soon as we can. This includes discussions with the local authority and charitable trusts. At this point there is no guarantee that the work would be fully funded.

*Q4. How will this environment improve our EYFS provision?*

ANSWER: In September 2018 we will have four members of staff working across the EYFS base. In this first year there will be three teachers and a teaching assistant. The new plans will enable us to balance formal learning with learning through play and discovery. In effect, at any given point we will be able to have two classes of 15 working inside developing basic skills and a group of 30 with staff guiding their learning through explorative interaction with a carefully designed natural environment. The teaching and learning opportunities this gives are extremely valuable.

*Q5. Is the building work achievable in a 6-week window?*

ANSWER: We may have to look at a phased implementation programme of the plans. This would be as a result of the school obtaining access to required levels of finance and any logistical challenges that may occur.

*Q6. Will the outdoor area potentially be out of use in September as the developments are being built and if so what will happen to the children?*

ANSWER: Should we be successful in achieving planning permission and gaining funds to support this project, the priority is to ensure that the modification to the EYFS classroom are completed during the summer holidays. If further work is required on the outdoor area, we will either look at developments during holiday periods, or depending on the length of time required, use our existing outdoor facilities including our new wildlife area for a temporary period. The work to the office area is achievable whilst children are in school and can be done at a later date. Governors are working closely with school leadership to ensure that developments to our school are made in order to make things better for the children. As you can tell, there is much work to be done and I will update you further once we have more clarity following the end of the planning timescale and feedback from our requests for financial support.