

Cheapside C. of E. Primary School

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Headteacher
Mrs Kate Searle

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Dear Parents

Letter from the Governors - Expansion update:

We realise it has been some time since we updated you on the plan for the school's expansion. In truth that is because until we hear back regarding planning permission, there is not an awful lot to update you on.

However, in the last couple of weeks we have received news that things are moving in the right direction. We hope to hear in the first half of March what the decision has been. On the other hand, we have also received news that isn't so good to hear regarding the massive barrier that is still in our way: parking. And it is this we must share with you, and ask for your help. It's a simple request but an incredibly important one.

PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY

The opposition from the neighbours is strong, and relentless. They are incredibly worried about the increased traffic and how the parking will affect them. They are taking action every single day to fight the expansion and therefore we must also make moves daily to reassure them. So we must ask you once again, please do not park in Dorian Drive or Green Lane during drop off or pick up. There have been complaints of people parking in such a way that the residents can't get out of their driveways and of people using people's driveways to turn around. We assured the neighbours that we would encourage parents not to park in Dorian Drive and we really need your help in implementing this. We must also ask that there is no parking on the yellow zig zags in front of the gates. This is strictly prohibited as these are in place to protect the children.

We urge as many people as possible to park on Watersplash Lane beside the 'tea tent field'. This has the smallest impact on any local residents. We managed this incredibly well last summer term and we recognise that in the colder months there is a temptation to park closer but please consider the consequences of these actions. Expansion of other schools has been stopped by determined neighbours and we very much don't want this to happen to us.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PTA, IN ANY WAY YOU CAN

Although we aren't there yet, we also thought it would be wise to update you on what's next, should the expansion go ahead. Building work would begin as soon as possible and be completed as early as possible in the Autumn term. Plans are already in place to minimise any disruption to children.

The good news is that if we get expansion we would like to split as many classes as possible as soon as we are physically able to do so. It will be a sometime before each class grows to its full capacity and this has the wonderful bonus of our existing pupils being taught in very small groups, unheard of for a state education. What it is important to share is that while the borough pays for the building work, the budgets stop there. The school will be responsible for furnishing each classroom with everything from chairs and tables to whiteboards. This is why your continued support of the fundraising events run by the PTA is so appreciated, and needed. Please support us any way you can – big or small.

FOREST SCHOOL

In good news, we are pleased to share that expansion or not, we will be going ahead with a forest school. Mrs Aplin and Mrs Summers are both completing training and this is a fantastic resource that the children will get an incredible amount of benefit from. We hope to share more plans regarding this in our next update.

If you have any questions regarding the expansion then please let the office know, and we will respond to as many as is possible in an update next term.

Have a lovely half term and thank you for all your support, help and co-operation.

The Governors of Cheapside CE Primary School