

# Greenfields Primary School

## GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

October 2019



This newsletter comes to you later than normal because we have been waiting for more definite news to share regarding the major upgrading projects for the school premises. The governors are very excited by these projects which will address most of the concerns about the premises raised by yourselves in the recent parent / carer survey.

### External Windows and Doors

The contract for this project has now been awarded and installation works are planned to commence on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Inevitably there will be some disruption to school life but the huge benefits of the project will more than outweigh any short-term inconvenience. Essentially we will plan to decant individual classes into the assembly hall or other available classrooms for the few days required to install the windows and doors into their classrooms. This should not have any material effect on the children's learning and progress.

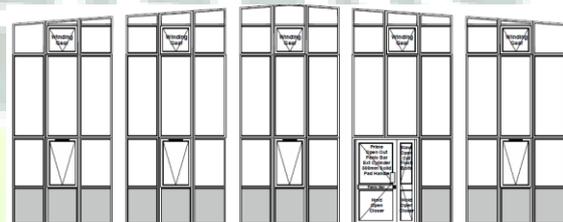
Reception will not be temporarily moved into the hall and Mrs Day will separately communicate the arrangements for this class and for the Nursery. Also we will let you know how access into the school will be affected, especially as the works are executed along the main corridor.

The new double glazed aluminium windows and doors will of course comply with all the latest safety and security

requirements whilst, as far as is practicable, retain the overall appearance of the school, as required by the Grade II Listed Building Consent granted by Three Rivers District Council on behalf of Historic England.



In fact the only aspect of the school's appearance that will notably change will be the assembly hall. Significant additional structural supports are required for the main window wall which will look as shown below.



The current plan sees the project being completed during February 2020. Some of the work which is critical to normal operations will be executed within the school's Christmas holiday, e.g. to the kitchen.

In addition to the safety and security benefits, we are looking forward to much improved ventilation and a significant reduction in our gas bill! So please bear with us over the months ahead.

## Heating and Water Supply

The completion of the windows and doors installation should see the start of this next major project which will also involve some disruption that we will have to plan around. We will of course communicate the details nearer the time.

The scope of this work is very extensive. Essentially the entire heating and water supply and distribution system will be replaced and upgraded, starting from the mains water intake along Prestwick Road.

In fact the first phase of the project has already been completed, being the installation and commissioning of a new temporary boiler which you may have noticed behind the safety railings on the right hand side of the school building.

The laying of the new water supply pipe will require excavation across the playing field, the KS2 hard-surfaced playground and across the car park. Internally all the hot and cold water piping will be replaced along with the radiators and hot air blowers.

In conjunction with the new windows and doors, this project will further add to the safety and comfort for our pupils and staff.

## Nursery

The Nursery pod is not directly affected by these projects but we didn't want it to be left out of the overall site improvements. To that end we have completed repairs to the external structure, internally redecorated the classroom and installed new toilets, wall tiling and basin taps.

We now wish to further improve the outside Nursery and Reception playground which has become rather muddy with the recent heavy rains.

## Air Quality

You will no doubt be aware of the major health concerns being caused by poor quality air around schools, particularly those located in city centres and adjacent to busy roads. There is also increasing evidence of the detrimental effect of poor quality air on children's learning and

behaviour. The good news is that our school's location and its extensive grounds and surrounding tree-line reduce this risk to a minimum. Nevertheless you can play your part by not bringing your vehicles into the school unless absolutely necessary and, if you do, please do not leave your engines running.

## Vaccinations

Also in the national news is the fact that vaccination levels in the UK have fallen over recent years to such an extent that easily-preventable diseases such as measles have reappeared. Please make sure your children's jabs are up to date.

## The Governors' Cup for Good Citizenship

This prestigious cup is awarded to children who have consistently demonstrated exemplary conduct and behaviour and, as such, act as role models for other children.

Our July winner is shown below: many congratulations to Kriya.



Kriya receiving the Governors' Cup from the Chair

## How to Contact Governors

We are always happy to receive constructive feedback and comments from parents, for example by dropping a note into the school office. Alternatively, the current Chair of Governors, David Ray, is in the school all day every Friday and would be pleased to meet for a chat.