



The Firs Lower Pre-school



The Firs

Lower School

20th December, 2019

Further Information regarding the New Saplings Building

Dear parents / carers,

When I wrote to you on 19th November, I indicated that we had technical difficulties which had created some delays. At that point, and following lengthy and detailed meetings with both our property services company Cube and Frame Build, the company with the contract to complete the project, we received assurances that the project was now 'on track' and would be handed over to us at the beginning of the spring term.

Unfortunately, shortly after writing to you, we began to grow concerned that progress on site was diminishing and when our property services company Cube contacted Frame Build regarding these concerns, we learned that there was a high degree of likelihood that the company was going into liquidation.

We have been working very hard since that time, with Cube to take the necessary steps to ensure that the project could continue in the event of this happening. It is very fortunate that we took these steps, as in the last week, we have been informed officially that Frame Build has now gone into liquidation. This is extremely frustrating and of course, there will be delays as a result of the difficulties the situation has created.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you however, that following a considerable amount of work by both ourselves and the governors, to turn this situation around quickly, we are entering into an agreement with Equibuild, to complete the remainder of the project. Equibuild were the sub-contractors for Frame Build, who were actually responsible for the work on the ground. We have a good relationship with them and we are feeling positive about the opportunity we have now, to complete this project in February 2020.

Fortunately, and as explained above, we have been proactive in taking steps over the last few weeks, to prepare for this eventuality. In its current location, the Saplings is next door to our Pine reception unit and Mrs Mercer, the Early years leader has worked with Mrs Sherry to design a programme that will give children, for whom it is appropriate, the valuable opportunity to have some time with a member of the Saplings staff, in our reception setting, taking advantage of all the play opportunities it provides. (This will not affect pick up or drop off arrangements). In this way, we will be able to cater for all the children, who will be using the Saplings provision, whilst adding additional benefits to the experiences offered to our children.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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Having met with Cube and Equibuild today, we have set the target of completing the project by the end of February. We will then free up staff, to accelerate as much as possible, the process of moving in, our aim being to open the new building to our Saplings children in early March.

I appreciate that the delays with this project are very frustrating for parents and we share those feelings! I would like to reassure you that everyone connected with this project in school is working very hard to ensure the building is completed as soon as is possible and whilst the children are waiting to move into their new lovely home for The Saplings, all the staff working with them are making sure that their play and learning continues uninterrupted and that they are all cared for, happy and thoroughly enjoying their time in pre-school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam J G Campbell'.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Jones'.

Gareth Jones
Chair of Governors