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Wednesday 13th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to inform you that our new Regent Class (Year 1) classroom will be completed during the autumn term and it is planned that work will commence on 16th October and finish by 11th December. The children will be ready to start learning in the new Regent Class for the start of the New Year.

Having a separate Year 1 classroom means that for the first time the children are taught, all of the time, as a Year 1 class without being split between both the Reception Class and the Year 2 Class. They are in a small class of twenty two with a full time Year 1 teacher and a teaching assistant.

We are also pleased that we can offer local families the school of their choice by increasing our Reception Class PAN to 30 for 2017 – 2018.

The arrangements for the new Year 1 class are similar to arrangements which took place last year for the Year 1's who had their core learning (English and Mathematics) in the Community Lounge each morning and the arrangements for our 'All Change Day', when children and parents spent time with their new class teacher.

We apologise that the arrangements for the Year 1 children were not as clear as they should have been on the first day of school and I thought that it might be helpful if I set out the arrangements for you below:

Interim arrangements:

Children will enter and be dismissed outside of St James' Class (Year 2) and Miss Armstrong will be there to greet the children.

The Community Lounge will continue to be set-up as a temporary classroom with enough child-height school tables and chairs for twenty two pupils, alongside a carpet area with a large school rug.

All resources and equipment, necessary to teach Year 1, will be accessible within the temporary classroom.

Toileting and hand-washing will be within the main school.

A sink is located within the kitchen area for fresh water.

The children will still have planned access to outdoor areas and the EYFS outdoor area.

The Community Lounge is alarmed and safe from intruders and access can only be gained through the school during school hours.

New classroom:

This will be located off from the school hall where presently the school and the Village Hall share a storage area. Pick-up points to the classroom will be where the reception children are collected from. The classroom will have access to the EYFS outdoor area. It will be designed for Year 1 children and all of the furniture and equipment will be new. Access to the hall will be from the current corridor between the two toilet areas.

Additional information:

To replace the storage facility used by the Village Hall and school, the bar area and the ladies toilets will be converted into two storage areas. Two temporary storage containers will be cordoned off and located near to the garden area, away from the reception drop-off point. A further extension will be built at the back of the bar area to accommodate more storage facilities within the school.

The Village Hall will be significantly improved and the Community Lounge will be extended near to the end of the school access gates. The gates will be moved further along the wall so that vehicular access can be gained to the playground. The inner school car park will be re-marked to factor in access to the new location of the gates and Lincolnshire County Council are currently working on the layout of the outer school car-park. The Community Lounge will have a new bar area and will be completely fitted out as new. The work on the Community Lounge and part of the new storage area will take place in January and will finish by Easter.

Lincolnshire County Council are investing in the Village Hall facilities because they have to replace anything that is taken with a 'like-for-like' and it was felt to be more beneficial to utilise the existing floor-space within the school (currently used by the Village Hall as part of the 'Chance to Share Scheme') rather than install a porter cabin on the school car-park outside, which was originally suggested. It is vital that we increase the capacity of the school as the squeeze on infant places is significant within the village and surrounding villages linked to the school and this is likely to continue.

We realise that any building works can be disruptive and we really do appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter. We will endeavour to ensure that none of the children's learning is compromised and I have asked for any noisy building works to take place during half-term. The contractors on site are Lindum, which are the preferred school contractors for Lincolnshire County Council. A manager for the project has been assigned and she will liaise closely with the school on any health and safety matters. I am also aware that the Reception Class will adjoin the new classroom and I have insisted that we are informed of when any 'noisy' work will take place so that we can plan around it and the contractors have been informed of working around school term dates and school hours.

If you have any further questions in relation to the new school building, please do not hesitate to contact.

I have attached a plan of the new classroom for your information.

Thank you for once again for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind regards,

Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher