

Ashby Willesley Primary School, Packington Nook Lane, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2QG

Part of the Symphony Learning Trust

Telephone: 01530 413654 Email: [office@willesley.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@willesley.leics.sch.uk) Web: [www.ashbywillesley.org.uk](http://www.ashbywillesley.org.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mr M Brookes Head of School: Mrs C Dilks Deputy Headteacher: Miss S Rainbow

29 May 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

As we near the start of the final half term of what can only be described as the most challenging year in Willesley School's history, I would like to share with you what has been happening at school regarding building restoration work, key events that have been happening and what you can expect over the coming half term.

Since the government announced that schools would be closing to all but keyworkers on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, work has certainly not stopped but has continued in a different way.

All staff have continued to welcome Keyworkers to school to enable parents with essential work to carry on, whilst also ensuring that pupils have received ongoing home learning. We have taken a great deal of time to consider the needs of all of our families and children when planning home learning, to provide a variety of online activities and non ICT activities, to ensure that all children have the opportunity to access their learning. We have been delighted to see some of the fabulous work that children have been completing at home and have been inspired by some of the ideas that you have come up with yourselves. We will, of course, be continuing to set home learning for pupils who will not be returning to school yet and this will mirror the work that children will be completing when they return on June 1<sup>st</sup>, as it has been since we closed. We know and appreciate that home learning is no easy task, as many staff are also balancing this role at home, but can assure you that we know that you will be doing your best under your personal circumstances.

In recent weeks, we have been extremely busy working hard to meet government guidance to enable us to reopen school safely. All classrooms have been reorganised to enable social distancing, as well as the field being zoned off to enable PE and outdoor learning to continue safely. We are very grateful to Ashby School, who during their lock down, have made protective masks for our staff to wear to administer first aid safely.



From next week, staff will all be working in school but will continue to respond to emails and questions as much as they possibly can. Your child's class teacher will also be writing their end of year school report, informing you of their progress in school this year, up until 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This will be sent out to you in July.

Class allocations and transition will also be considered carefully and planned for this half term. This will be communicated with children on 4<sup>th</sup> July. We will liaise with Ivanhoe as to how this will work for Year 6 and will put a plan into place to ensure that all children get to meet their class teacher before the end of the year, virtually if necessary. Any transition work that will be planned for children will again be consistent for those at home and at school. Teachers know your children well and always take a great deal of time and consideration when organising classes for next year. We are unable to make promises to any individual requests.

### **Building Work**

As children coming into school reduced dramatically, so the number of construction workers that were able to attend site also understandably did, as workplaces closed down. This put an initial hold on the roofing work and the reinstatement of the Acorn building, which had been going so well. However, once safe working practices were recommended by the government and workplaces, work has gradually been able to recommence and I am delighted to be able to share some of the exciting progress that has been made.

One change that you will notice when we are able to welcome you all back is that the scaffolding has disappeared, and the roof has been completed. The roofing project has seen the re-felting of the whole flat roof of the Acorn building and skylights have been updated. The final aspect of this project which we hope will be completed soon, is an upgrade to lighting around this building and new fascia.

Other External work includes improvements to the car park, including drainage, and having the large tree removed to allow more car parking for staff and visitors.



We are delighted to have been able to progress with another of our WASPs funded projects and have had an outdoor stage constructed (mirrors to be added) for children to enjoy during break and lunchtimes on their return. We are awaiting the backdrop and children can look forward to using their creativity to perform to their friends. Many thanks to WASPs for funding this and to those of you have supported their fund-raising events.



Work inside school has, in recent weeks, picked up pace and has been progressing well. We are delighted by how it is looking. The hall floor, which was damaged by the flooding, has been fully renovated and the beautiful original parquet flooring has been restored to its former glory.

I hope that you will be as delighted as we are with the Acorn building. We have taken the opportunity to work with a fabulous design company recommended to us by a parent, to completely change the look and feel of this building. It has been totally transformed, with beautiful flooring, seating areas and colours to promote a calm working environment.

The library area has been designed to reflect an outdoor feel, whilst giving us comfy seating areas to work in and read. We are still awaiting seating for our waiting area and other detail, but these pictures will give you an initial idea as to how it is coming along.

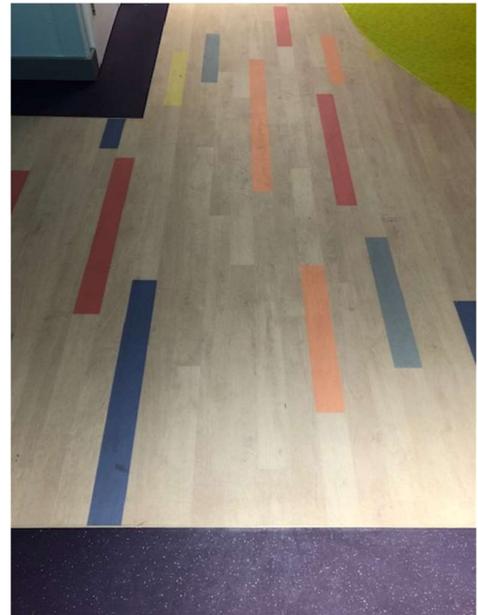
The practical shared area is taking shape, with a fabulous new kitchen for breakfast club and after school to



use. Further work and decoration is continuing as well as reinstating the staffroom to ensure staff wellbeing.

Acorns and 1GP toilet areas, which were damaged during flooding have been totally revamped and are ready to use next week when some pupils return.

We know that when we are able to open to you all that routines may have to change and there will be a new 'normal', however we are excited to be able to welcome you back to a fully reinstated and beautiful Acorn building which will enhance both working and the mental wellbeing of everyone.



Thank you for your continued patience and support throughout this challenging time. We have had so many offers of parental and community support to help us to get school back up and running after the flood as well as many positive messages to staff about your time at home. These things really do make a difference to us as a school and we are proud to have such a wonderful Willesley Community.

We wish you all well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards  
Mrs Chloe Dilks  
Head of School