



New School News – Number 1 – June 2011

This is the first in what is hoped to be a regular series of updates on progress with the new school building. Don't forget to contact the school if there is any other information or clarification which you would like.

Easter 2011 Preparation Works

The main work over the Easter holiday was the removal of the lovely playground trees (and the not so lovely bushes at the car park). Whilst it was sad to lose what had been a big part of the St Clement's site for many years we are reassured that landscaping and the environment in general will be an important part of the construction and finishing of the new building.

Summer 2011 Preparation Works

This is the first big section of work, and will be the first to have a major impact upon how the school currently operates. Muirfield Contracts are the contractors for the demolition and preparation phase. In short, Rooms 1-4 will be demolished during the summer, along with the main playground shed, and hoardings erected along the line shown on the attached plan. This will allow work to commence on the culvert which takes the Lochee Burn under our current playground (the big 'bump' in the area to the south of the infant block) and other foundation work prior to the construction commencing around October. This leads to the following changes for next session:

School Access

There will no longer be access to the school from Craigowan Road (past the garages). A new gate and path will be made at the **east end of Balgarthno Place**, joining the existing path from the top of Buttar's Street; this and the existing **Buttar's Street** entrance will be the only pedestrian entrances to the school playground. This will mean that Buttar's Street will become busier than it currently is and it will be really important that drivers act with consideration and care and observe the parking restrictions which are in place. There will be a lot further to walk for many of our pupils, but there is no way round this at present - additional access will, of course, be available once the new site is complete.

Playground Space

As you can see from the plan, available playground space will be greatly decreased, including loss of the current grass areas and a large part of the tarmac. The main shelter will also disappear. On a positive note, the old janitor's house will be demolished, the fence round it removed and that area tarred to create some additional space. Fencing around the staff and visitors' car park will also allow us to use the grass area behind the second

(over)

shed, which will remain for the time being, and around the car park. Because of the restricted space, we will be operating split morning intervals next session, with P1-3 out then P4-7. For lunchtimes, I plan to see how things are in the first term then look at any necessary changes for October.

Building Access

To improve security within the building, the controlled door entry system will be moved from its current door to the door currently used by P1-3. This means that all visitors arriving on foot will have to pass the office - more secure than the present situation.

Pupil Entrances

All three doors currently used will continue to be used for pupil entrance/exit. Once classes and teachers are finalised (later this week), I'll be able to make a decision on what classes will use which doors and corridors.

Classroom Use

We're right in the middle just now of moving furniture and equipment from Rooms 1-4 to other areas of the school. There will be classes in Rooms 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16; Room 6 will continue to house our ENABLE group, and Room 8 will be shared by our Support for Learning staff and the After School Club.

Toilets

The current Infant Toilets will continue to be in use, particularly during intervals - they will not be demolished until the rest of the building goes in a couple of years.

The Next Steps.....

The Project Board meets again this Friday afternoon (24th) for updates on progress. A local Implementation Group will be formed early next session, with parent, staff and pupil representation from all three involved schools. This group will look at more detailed planning for the operation of the two schools in the new building and other preparations. A Contractor for the construction work will be awarded the contract in the next few months, and current timescales suggest that if preparation work progresses on schedule construction of the new building should start around October.

Obviously, many of these are fairly major changes which will have some impact on the school's work and, in particular, its accessibility, but I'm confident that by working together we can iron out any difficulties and continue to develop St Clement's success as a Learning Community prior to the big move to the new shared building and the many opportunities that presents.