



New School News – Number 3 – March 2012

Commencement of Construction Works

Exciting times! As you'll have seen, Mansell are on site and carrying out final preparatory work for the official start of the construction this coming Monday, 19th March. The hoarding has been painted in Mansell's corporate colours (a bit blue and white for me!) and the site has been secured. I've had meetings with the Project and Construction Managers (Graeme Cocker and Scott Ritchie) and have been very impressed so far with their understanding of the school's needs during the construction and their commitment to working with us. I will be meeting weekly with Mansell staff during the construction to ensure that things run as smoothly for us as possible.

Education Work

Alan Constable, former Head Teacher of Morgan Academy, is Mansell's Education Officer. We have met and agreed an initial programme of activities focussed primarily upon safety during the works. Alan, Graeme, and Scott will be leading our assemblies next Friday, 23rd March, talking about building site safety. We will also be putting together a Construction Committee of children from P3-P6 who will visit the site at various points during the construction to see for themselves what is being done - hard hats and boots supplied! Parent representatives will also be involved in site visits. Together with Mansell, children from the schools will put together a regular newsletter on progress as well. We also have the advantage of a great overview of the site from our top floor classrooms so can have a bird's eye view of progress. We have invited children, parents and staff from the other schools to visit regularly for a look as well. We also hope to be able to use Mansell staff's expertise for parallel learning projects in school eg on buildings, construction, materials, artwork over the next year or so.

It is really important that parents/carers and families regularly speak to their children about safety and reinforce to them that the construction site is completely out of bounds to them (even to collect footballs!) apart from during the organised visits mentioned above.

New Plans

Copies of the revised building plans are now on display in all of the schools. These will be labelled and will be a good focus for discussions with children, parents and anyone else who is interested.

Merger of Charleston and Lochee Primaries

After extensive consultation, the name chosen for the new school which will be sharing the new building with St Clement's is **Camperdown Primary School**. We look forward to working together into this bright new future.

Upcoming Site Work

The electricity substation currently to the east of our building is to be relocated within the construction site during the spring break. This will mean moving the boundary hoarding and losing a little bit more of the playground. This won't be an issue in the better weather when we can use the grass area. It's all about safety..... I'm told that we should start to see 'upwards' work round about the beginning of May, with the arrival of steelwork. That will be another landmark. Lots of photos will be taken charting the progress of the work. Watch out for the tweets and Blog posts.

Site Safety

Extensive safety plans have been put in place for the duration of the construction. This includes detailed routing for delivery vehicles, banksmen on duty at the site entrance and a myriad of other procedures which will ensure the safety of children, adults and visitors at all times. The regular meetings between school and Mansell staff will have safety as the top priority. There will inevitably be some traffic issues but it is hoped that these will be kept to a minimum, and site traffic movement should normally be outwith school start and finish times .

Local Implementation Group

The next meeting of this group is on 27th March in Charleston Primary at 2pm. We're always on the lookout for parents who would be able and willing to attend - if you could manage, please let me know. It's so important that St Clement's parents are involved in and informed about this project and the LIG is a great way for this to happen. Discussion points will include parking and drop off at the new building, joint parent activities and working together in the new building and playground. In the near future, discussions will take place around colour schemes and furnishings and I'm sure that many of you would want an input into that. If anyone wishes a copy of previous LIG meeting notes, please let me know. It is my intention to post information from future LIG meetings in the school's Blog.

ICT

We're working hard to ensure that the ICT facilities are as good as they can be in the new building, with interactive boards in each teaching area and audiovisual equipment in the Assembly Hall. We're exploring a number of options on this and hope to have news soon.

As always, please contact me if there is anything you wish to comment on or discuss around the plans for the new building. The views of parents, families and, of course, the children themselves are really important in shaping the future of the new St Clement's Primary school in partnership with the new Camperdown Primary.

*A. Macgregor
Head Teacher
March 15th 2012*