



Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed Church of England (Aided) Junior School

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28th April 2021

Dear Families of The Endowed,

Expansion Update

As you will be aware, we were approached by the Local Authority over 2 years ago and asked to expand our school PAN (Published Admission Number) to take 60 children into Year 3 from 2021 and each year after that. The reason for this is so that the number of places in both town Infant schools are mirrored in both of the town's Junior schools. Whitstable Junior School reduced their PAN to 60 last September so we were asked to increase ours. This year we are happy to have offered 60 places to our new intake of children for this September.

For this reason The Endowed is growing! The school will need to grow to accommodate the additional children. This will be done in a way that still ensures the school maintains its strong ethos and family feel. This has been a very important factor in our discussions with architects and planners and the Governing Body has been very firm with their requirements and have been fully involved every step of the way. The plans that have been drawn up are exciting and in keeping with the tradition of the old building as well as bringing a modern, eco-friendly twist.

Two new classrooms will be created from existing internal spaces and one will be adapted from a conservatory into a brick structure but the footprint is barely changing. Our new kitchen and canteen will be a new building that fits perfectly into the environment where it will be built. It will be 'timber' clad, single story with a 'green' roof i.e. with plants growing above the canteen. New toilets will replace the existing ones and I can tell you that that part of the project is scheduled for the summer holiday so there will be new and improved facilities for the children when they return in September. As well as building work, the Computer suite is going to be redesigned along with the Library: the two rooms will become interlinked via double doors to provide a free flow space for research and developing independence in seeking and finding information. There will be a relaxed feel with sofas and laptops as well as more formal seating for Computing lessons.

The design is due to be submitted to the planning authorities very soon and you are able to view the plans here:

<https://www.whitstable-endowed.kent.sch.uk/expansion-2021/>

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It is good to have these plans to now share with you all. Unfortunately, due to circumstances which I am sure you can understand considering the last year, the project was delayed in moving forward. For this reason the planning application will be submitted later than ideal and this has a knock on effect with the build of course. One class will use the Hall as their classroom until the new classrooms are ready to be occupied. There will be no detrimental impact on the children's learning; in fact quite the opposite; with the largest classroom in the school the possibilities are endless! The class will move into their new classroom as soon as it is signed off and ready. I cannot tell you at this time when that might be but will keep you up to date with progress. When we are able to gather the whole school together for Collective Worship we hope to do this in St. Alphege Church.

I cannot wait for us all see the new rooms and canteen. We will certainly be very keen to show you around. More details will follow when we know them. I will also write soon with details of classes for next year and how these will be arranged. We know that this is a very exciting time in the history of The Endowed and the expansion will create new opportunities for the children as well as new spaces for learning.

Please do get in touch with any questions regarding the above. You can contact me using my email address above.

Thank you for your continued support and love for our school.

With warmest regards,

Ellen Butcher
Headteacher

