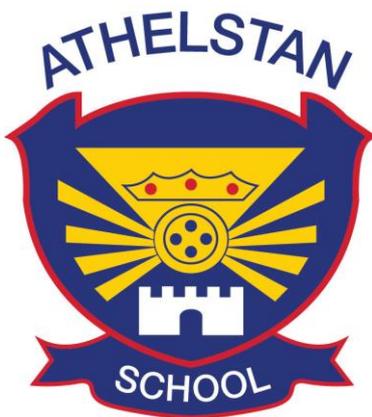


Athelstan Primary School
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14th August 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the summer holidays we are in a position to bring you up to date with our school expansion and refurbishment works. There is some good news and some not so good news. The good news is that the new extension is well on its way to being completed and is looking really lovely, Sewells Construction have pulled out all the stops working weekends and late days to complete this work.

Unfortunately however we have had some unforeseen complications with the conversion and remodelling of the old school. Once Sewell Construction started with the demolition, knocking down ceilings and walls it became obvious that there is a lot more remedial work needed than was initially envisaged. The whole of the existing school is now being rewired, which in turn means plastering, painting etc etc.

Eventually this will mean we will effectively have a completely brand new school, it does mean however that we will have several rooms unavailable for the start of term.

The other areas which have been impacted by this additional work, and also by the inclement weather, is the external grounds and new playgrounds.

So what does this mean in simple terms. On Wednesday 6th September Raindrops and Puddles children will be able to use the Rose Avenue entrance as normal. **There will be no access via Rose Avenue for any other classes until a date has been confirmed later this half term.** Sunshine's children will access school via the Highfields entrance only and then access through the Puddles playground. **This arrangement will continue for a couple of weeks until the main Milford Road entrance is completed.** All other classes will access school via Highfields entrance only, **this arrangement will continue for a couple of weeks until the main Milford Road entrance is completed.**

Not all the hard surface playgrounds will be completed, but there will be sufficient outdoor play areas, for a short two week period.

Year One Families

Unfortunately one area we have been unable to complete is the extension to the year one classrooms. The extension and refurbishment of these classrooms have had a series of unforeseen factors which have greatly hindered the building work, Sewells Construction have seriously clawed back lost time and have worked like Trojans to overcome these problems, nevertheless we will be unable to complete these rooms in time for the 6th September. We have looked at every possibility, and every alternative but the fact is the rooms will not be ready either for Athelstan staff to take over, or more importantly for us to provide secure entrance or exit routes from these rooms.

North Yorkshire Health and Safety team are very happy with all the interim routes around school for the rest of the children but were unable to agree routes to and from the year one classrooms safely.

We are very sorry to say therefore that the year one children will not be able to start back at school until the 11th of September. We sincerely apologise for this inconvenience, but we know that you will appreciate that we have to put the safety of the children first.

We were given the option of not opening the whole of school until the 11th of September, if we have chosen this option we could have started on that date with all the entrances and outside areas completed. As we have chosen to open the school for the vast majority of our pupils on the 6th as planned, the consequence is we will have to wait longer for the external work to be completed. We believe that this was the best option for the children and our families.

- In conclusion, for all but year one children, school will open on the Wednesday 6th September as planned.
- As a result of opening on the 6th September not all the facilities in school will be operational, but the school will be safe and secure for those children in school.
- By the 11th of September all the children will be in school. By the 17th of September the Milford Road entrance will be open.
- All other works will be completed by the end of October half term. We will send out further updates closer to the start of term.

A reminder that temporary school meal arrangements are in place for the first three weeks of term. Please visit the school website for the menu details.

Yours truly
Miss K O' Donnell
Headteacher