



Old Hall School
February 2017
Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy start to the New Year and half term is now fast approaching. I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst the new school transport team got to work – they had a lot to do to get used to their new routes with new drivers and passenger assistants. We have worked with the new team to iron out issues as they arose, but if you have any concerns then please do contact the school or the transport team directly, it is important that we work together to ensure our children are safe and happy on their transport and come into school ready to learn and be happy.

School building programme

The new school building plan will be taking shape, with building due to start in the new term. We have outline plans for three new classes and a sensory room to be built alongside the existing building. In addition there will be more hygiene spaces and WC's which will allow us to admit sixteen more children in September 2018. I have asked the whole team here to work on proposals for how the classes should be equipped. This is a great opportunity for us to have three new classrooms fully equipped to meet the needs of our most complex and challenging children and will be a very flexible resource for the school.

We expect that building work will begin over the Easter holidays and across the summer term, ready for opening in September but we will aim to work with the architect and building team to minimise any impact on our children as much as we possibly can. I will aim to share completed plans with parents, carers and staff as soon as they are available.

Federation news

We are still in the consultation period for proposals to join in a school federation with Mary Elliot School – forms are available from the office if you still wish to add your comments to the consultation process – the closing date will be after half-term when the governors of both schools will make their decisions.

Christmas donations

A huge thank you to everyone involved in Christmas fundraising, we have had many generous offers, especially from Morrison's but also from staff, parents and carers across the school. We have bought a selection of toys games and playground equipment which we can share at playtimes – this is so helpful for all of our children to develop play, interaction and communication skills right through the day and not just in class – thank you everyone for your hard work and generosity.

Safeguarding News: Internet Safety week – Sharon Barrett, Designated Safeguarding Lead

We take safeguarding for all of our children at Old Hall seriously – we are particularly aware that our children are very vulnerable on the internet due to their social interactional and communication needs. This week has been Internet safety week at Old Hall, led by Sharon Barrett and class teams across the school. Please have a browse through the websites below for more information to help protect your children online, there is lots of useful advice for parents and carers about the disadvantages of the online world.

- www.saferinternet.org.uk - Here you will find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.
- www.childnet.com- An organisation working directly with children, parents and teachers to ensure that the issues of online child protection and the safe and positive use of the internet are addressed.
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.
- www.kidsmart.org.uk/ - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.
- www.chatdanger.com - This website is about the potential dangers with interactive services online like chat, IM, online games, email and on mobiles. It provides information, advice, true stories and games. The resource page also contains a number of links to other useful websites.
- <http://parents.vodafone.com/>- this provides information and guidance to parents to help understand the digital world. There is also an online test to see how much you know.
- www.internetmatters.org - Lots of guidance and articles for parents about keeping their children safe online.
- www.digizen.org - A website designed to strengthen awareness and understanding of what digital citizenship is. It encourages users of technology to be and become responsible Digital Citizens.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our whole school community is safe.

Family Hub: We look forward to seeing you all at the next Family Hub meeting on the 5th March – topics will include Communication with Amber, (Speech and language Therapist), MAKATON Information sessions and E-Safety - invite letters will come after half term

Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to Elaine Rose and Maryan Hans who have joined us to help us in our work - we wish you all the best at Old Hall School.

Very best wishes



Clive