



ROTHERHITHE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## NEW BUILD UPDATE

The wait is over ... our new building will be handed over to us on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and children will move in after the February Half Term break.

## New Year ... New Beginnings



Dear Parents, Carers, and children,

We are delighted to update you on the most recent developments about our New Build.

We have had confirmation this week that the new building will be handed over (commissioned) to us on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Due to the challenges of Covid and the recent HGV lorry driver shortages, which caused delays in some materials being delivered, we are a little (4 weeks) behind our original schedule. However, we think the contractors, FARRANS, have done a remarkable job to limit the delay of the building by only 4 weeks. We are very grateful to them for putting in the extra hours.

The above delay does mean we will unfortunately have to make some changes to our previously scheduled INSET days. This is unavoidable and we apologise for any inconvenience. We have amended our academic calendar on the website as well.

The rest of the INSET days for this academic year will be:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	REASON
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closed	Staff Training
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed	Staff moving resources into new building
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed	Staff moving resources into new building
<b>HALF TERM 12<sup>th</sup> February - 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>			
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	90min group tours of the school for year groups and parents (Home learning will be set).	Orientation Sessions for Year 3-6 and parents
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	90min group tours for year groups and parents (Home learning will be set).	Orientation Sessions for Nursery, reception, Year 1 & 2 and parents
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	School open as normal	All children return to the new building through new entrances

We will share further timetables for the orientation days closer to the time.

## What to expect when we move?

### Orientation days 21<sup>st</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> February

We have set aside two days to do special tours of the whole school for parents and their children. This will be organised in year groups. We will consider parents with children in more than one year group and will organise these differently. More information and exact timetables will be shared closer to the time.

During the orientation days parents and children will be able to tour the whole school and visit the special rooms, classes, halls and outdoor spaces. They will be shown new entrances and exits to the school and will be taken to the lunch halls as well. These sessions aim to familiarise the children with their new environment before they start on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We will continue some of the orientation work for the rest of that week once the children have settled.

### New Pupil Entrance

Our new pupil entrance and the office entrance will be on Hawkstone Road from 21<sup>st</sup> February. We will have clear signage visible to the public and the entrance of our building will overlook the park.

### Playground

When the children move into the new building after half term we will not have our entire playground available to us. This is because following our move from the old building the contractors will start the demolition work. The entire old building will be demolished and removed before the landscaping can take place. We are expecting 50 new trees to be planted, fantastic new outdoor equipment being installed and even a little amphitheatre.

However, we will have sufficient space (slightly bigger than what we have now) to ensure that children have adequate outdoor space available while the final works are being completed. Our contractors have informed us that they are aiming to complete the entire playground by the end of July 2022.

### Uniform

We are planning to change our school uniform ready for September 2022; however, we will keep our existing uniform when we move into the new building. We ask parents to please adhere to our current uniform policy as this will support children with their transition and keep our identity while we ease them into the new building. I have discussed the uniform with Isaac (the Chair of RPS school council) recently and he will be working with the rest of the school council members in leading the consultation process with the children, parents and staff. We are looking forward to their ideas. We aim to have a refreshed uniform and policy for the start of September 2022 and will of course give parents plenty of notice.

## What will our new building offer?

When we conducted some of our workshops about three years ago, parents were shown the design and exciting aspects of our new building. It's been so long, so I thought I would remind everyone about some key features

### Dance Studio

We will have a soundproof dance hall with mirrored walls and sprung flooring. This will enhance the work on dance and allow children to enjoy music and creative movement in a specially designed hall.

### Practical Room

We have a practical room where we will be delivering Science, art and cooking lessons. This room will eventually open up into a little herb and vegetable garden.

### Habitat and meadow

We will have an area of the playground that is designated for Forest School learning and we will continue to provide our Forest School provision for our children once this area is complete.

### Sensory Room

We will have a lovely sensory room available to support the work with pupils who require sensory stimulus and support.

### Large Dining Hall

Our large dining hall will have large windows letting in natural sunlight which will ensure a lovely dining experience for the children. We will get all new furniture to kit out this area and we are aiming to have some lovely backdrops too.

### Classrooms

Each classroom will have new furniture and rugs. We have designed a teaching wall, which will host the teaching board, cupboard space and trays for the children in year 2 - 6. A slightly different design will exist for the EYFS and Year 1 based on the children's age, size and development.

These are just some of the exciting things our children have to look forward to. Please see some of the pictures overleaf.

## New building Gallery

We can wait to show you around soon!!!





1. Civic entrance to main reception
2. Student arrival space outside secure line boundary
3. Waiting area for parents at pick up
4. Student cycle parking (total 36 cycle spaces and 40 scooter space)
5. Staff cycle parking (total 10 spaces)
6. On-street loading bay
7. Kitchens / refuse store access from loading bay
8. Brick wall to frontage and around cycle store
9. Anchor sculpture
10. External dining area
11. Amphitheatre / performance area
12. Courtyard quiet seating area / small group space
13. Sensory play / outdoor games
14. Raised planters with herbs garden to courtyard
15. Existing focal trees retained with tree seat platform
16. Asphalt free play area with line markings
17. Table tennis tables
18. KS1 / KS2 Equipped play area
19. MUGA
20. External classroom / group space
21. Growing garden with raised beds
22. Storage sheds
23. Group shelter
24. Nature area with natural play and habitat
25. Sand / water play / mud kitchen
26. Stage / story area
27. Active play trail
28. Dens / playhouses
29. Sensory play to S.E.N.D courtyard
30. Nursery / reception access from Houdnet Grove
31. Public main improvements to Hawkestone Road - pavement to be uplifted to Southwark Highways Specification.
32. Staff parking - 2 standard bays, 2 accessible bays
33. Additional staff cycle parking (total 10 spaces)
34. Community access to MUGA
35. Sub-station / Sprinkler tank
36. Visitor cycle parking (total 12 spaces)
37. Habitat area with meadow planting



Landscape masterplan