

GOVERNORS UPDATE TO PARENTS KCES TRANSITION MEASURES FOR 2015-16

Dear Parents and Carers

With the start of the new calendar year I am aware that your thoughts are already focusing on the new academic year ahead.

From September 2015 we will be accommodating a new Year 5 class, and appropriately our Headteacher, supported by all staff, are working incredibly hard to ensure we are ready, in terms of the curriculum, resources and training.

The Governing Body and Mrs. Bowyer have also spent a great deal of time looking at how year 5 will be actually physically accommodated, and this has proved to be very challenging.

It is fair to say that all Governors, the Headteacher, staff, parents, the Kings Cliffe Endowed School Foundation and wider community members had all expected that a mobile classroom would be provided for the transitional phase. I would also agree that this was the initial expectation of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC).

However, discussions during December revealed this would not be the case due to adverse pre-planning advice, premised on the Grade II listed status of the school building. It was assessed by NCC that the risk of a mobile facility being declined by planning, was too great in terms of the overall cluster wide capital building project. This case is detailed on a discussion document on our website at <insert link>

At a meeting of the Kings Cliffe Endowed School, the Kings Cliffe School Foundation and the County planning team in December, it was agreed in the interests of collaborative working, that we would accept this position and develop alternative and creative solutions, if NCC agreed to resource these appropriately. This was agreed to in principle by all parties.

The following solutions were developed before Christmas in conjunction with the county team - including a consultant with specific expertise in managing educational capital projects so that learning and attainment is not adversely affected by changes such as the ones we are currently facing. The solutions proposed are outlined below:

Specific Transition Plans for 2015-16

1. Conversion of ICT Suite in Horsa Building to a Classroom

- Fixed or temporary acoustic boarding will be installed to ensure the noise level complies with NCC regulations.
- A Clever Touch whiteboard on par with those in other classrooms will be installed.

- Appropriate desks/chairs for pupils and teacher will be sourced with assistance from the county team.
- NCC will look to obtain planning permission for the construction of toilet facilities in the cloakroom area of the ICT suite (similar to what has been done in the Playgroup/Stay & Play side).
- In a worse case scenario improvements would be made to the surface of the walk way to the main building and pupils would utilise facilities there.

2. Compensating the Loss of the ICT Suite:

- Loss of the ICT suite makes the existing computing equipment obsolete.
- NCC will replace these with mobile laptops so that children can use IT in their classrooms.
- NCC were also requested to provide laptops for teachers, as they too will lose the facility of the ICT suite, as the only appropriately equipped quiet space in the school for professional development.

3. Loss of Library

- Much work and effort has been deployed to develop a library that is welcoming and will foster a love for reading amongst the children.
- The current facility will be lost during the transition period and NCC are working with us on some creative solutions.
- A creative NCC proposal is to convert a bus that can be housed in the car park into a library for the children. There are many examples of this – and not only as a transitional measure. We are quite excited about this proposal as it has the potential to draw children, parents and the wider community into an exciting project, and a significant amount of initial work has been done by governors concerning this.

4. Storage for curriculum resources displaced

- The plan will also displace valuable curriculum resources, which are stored in the Horsa building.
- It is proposed that the mobile library solution will also provide enough secure space to store these items.

Current Status of Plans

The Governors received news on 15th January from NCC that funding had been secured to provide a library resource as outlined above. This is fantastic news and we will share further news on this as it becomes available. Funding for the conversion of the Horsa building is also agreed, although the exact details of the refurbishment will depend on planning. Confirmation on funding for the IT provision however, is still outstanding.

The remaining details our transition package for the school, will hopefully be with us shortly, and we will relay this as soon as we can, including a clear programme and timetable once this has been agreed.

We are determined to secure a good solution for the coming school year (2015/16). It is a big issue and we will need positive support in order to help us through this next phase, but rest assured the Head Teacher, staff and governors are determined to make both the journey

and the outcome positive for pupils, parents and the community at large.

Sarah Dresner
Chair of Governors

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