

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER

"FOR EVERY CHILD TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL"

January 2016 Part 1



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to Part 1 of the January edition of the Cage Green Newsletter. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year for 2016.

The reason I am writing so early in the month is due to a wonderful opportunity for our school. After a very thorough discussion with the Local Authority, Cage Green has agreed to expand. This is because of the growing popularity of the school, the delay in the opening of the new Bishop Chavasse School in South Tonbridge, and the increased demand for Year R places, in September 2016 and beyond, the Governing Body has agreed to admit an extra 30 children into Year R for September 2016—this will take the number of children to 90.

Kent County Council approached the school the week before the Christmas break with its proposal which also included the building of a new classroom. The Governing Body met on Friday 8 January to discuss fully the proposal with Jared Nehra (Area Education Officer) as well as James Sanderson (KCC Property Services) sharing the provisional plans for the building work. Two new classrooms will be erected on the site of the current Computing Suite but final details and location are still to be agreed following a feasibility study which is to take place this week.

As you can imagine the project needs to adhere to strict timelines in order to be ready for September 2016. I am very confident this will be achieved after reassurances from Mr Sanderson. The building work will have minimal disruption to the day to day running of the school since the classrooms are of a modular design, hence constructed off site and lifted into place during a holiday period or weekend.

We had 143 applications last year for 60 places so I am extremely positive that we will be able to fill the 90 places. With this in mind, the applications for September 2016 close on 15 January 2016. This is where I need parents/carers assistance—I would like to ask as many of you as possible to disseminate the information to local residents who have children joining primary school in September 2016. With the increase in number of admissions, the prediction is the 'catchment area' may increase very slightly. Therefore there may be some parents/carers who may not put Cage Green down as one of their choices due to the distance they live from the school—these are the parents/carers we must inform.

I continue to feel very proud and fortunate to be Headteacher at Cage Green and this opportunity shows the confidence the Local Authority has in the school and its Governing Body. This is particularly pertinent when we are still judged by Ofsted as 'requires improvement'. I am confident this will not be the case once Ofsted return sometime this academic year when we all get the opportunity to share our views of the school.

One last assurance I would like to make to parents/carers is that I wouldn't have agreed to the proposal if I thought it would have a detrimental effect on our school—I believe the opposite. The extra staff will bring even more expertise to the school as well as the additional funding.

Any questions please feel free to ask—as you know I'm out on the playground most mornings and afternoons and I will be happy to discuss any comments.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite