



Sebert Wood Primary School Organisation Review Update



No. 1—November 2014

Exciting times ahead!

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on the exciting developments planned for the school as we move towards two tier schooling. We have been preparing for the change for some time and planning for the year 5 and year 6 curriculum has already started. Our teachers are all full primary trained and so they are all very well prepared to plan and teach Upper Key Stage 2 and many of the staff have taught in full primary schools in the past. Changes to the National Curriculum also tie in well, as every school in England is putting in place a new curriculum for years 5 and 6 and high quality resources and materials to deliver the new curriculum will be purchased by the school.

Plans for the new building are in place and on November 19th I attended the Development Control Committee meeting at Endeavour House Ipswich, and full planning permission should follow shortly. This is great news and means the project to expand Sebert Wood should begin in the new year. I have attached the initial drawings for the designs via Parentmail along with this newsletter. The design includes four classrooms, group rooms and a studio space. Please note that these are initial designs and give you an idea of how the buildings will look and the facilities they provide, but as the planning process progresses the designs may change and the finer details will continue to be worked on. A contractor will soon be assigned by the Local Authority and the work should be completed in July or August. During the previous phase of SOR in Stowmarket the timeframes were all met and high quality buildings were delivered for the schools. I recently visited Wood Ley Primary School in Stowmarket with our Chairman of Governors, Graham Balaam and we were both very impressed by the quality of the buildings. This also gave us the opportunity to ask many questions of the Headteacher and staff there, which will inform our own plans here.

Some of you have asked about who the new teachers will be, but at this point we are unable to tell you as we have to undertake a robust recruitment process with the school governors to ensure we get the right teachers for each role. Rest assured, that as soon as we have news about this we will let you know.

I hope the information in this newsletter gives you an insight into the future of our school and further information will follow but if you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to ask, or email the school office.

Peter Dewhurst

PLANNING FOR YEARS 5 AND 6

In addition to working in partnership with the Local Authority to manage and deliver the building itself, we are also working on a plan to deliver the School Organisation Review for the pupils here at Sebert Wood. A working party of staff and governors will soon start work on the details of a wide range of projects and we will of course be involving pupils and parents throughout the process. We will also be adapting many other aspects of school policy and the day to day logistics of running a school with an additional 60 and then 120 pupils.

Some examples of the areas we are looking at include:

- **Ensuring independence for year 5 and 6 pupils so that they walk and cycle safely to school**
- **Special planners/diaries for Upper Key Stage 2**
- **Developing school uniform ideas**
- **Extending the wide range of clubs and activities available and working with the Bury Schools Partnership and King Edward VI Upper School to deliver, for example Mandarin, Latin and an arts and music tuition programme**
- **Developing responsibilities around school for years 5 and 6, including the Sports Leader role and extending the Junior Road Safety Officer role**
- **Residential trips for year 5 and 6 pupils**
- **Resources, storage, furnishings, equipment and decoration in the new building**
- **Brand new technology such as touch screens**

Admissions Consultation

In January and February 2015, the Local Authority will be conducting its annual consultation on admission policies. Although the consultation covers policies and arrangements for all schools in the county, there will be particular issues for the Bury area arising from the School Organisation Review. The results of this consultation will be known by **April 2015**. The admission consultation will include:

- the size of King Edward VI Upper School and proposed changes to its catchment area. The LA is proposing to include 2 tier primary schools which are currently in the former County Upper catchment area in the catchment area for King Edward VI CEVC Upper School. The county council's aim is to give priority for places at 2 tier secondary schools to children who live in the catchment area of and attend 2 tier primary schools.
- the admission policy and the catchment/transport priority area for the new secondary school at Moreton Hall which opens in September 2016. The catchment/transport priority area will include pupils from the Moreton Hall area who are currently in catchment for King Edward VI.

In September 2015 Primary schools increase to 6 year groups (Reception to Yr5) (except Tollgate and Barrow which remain unchanged with 5 year groups, Reception to Yr 4). Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle schools reduce to 3 year groups (Yrs 6-8). King Edward Upper, St Benedict's Catholic School – no change

In July 2016 Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle schools close.

In September 2016 Primary schools increase to 7 year groups (Reception to Yr6) (except Tollgate and Barrow which remain unchanged with 5 year groups (Reception to Yr-4). King Edward VI CEVC Upper increases to 7 year groups (Yrs 7-13). St Benedict's Catholic School already has 7 year groups but increases its admission number in Yrs 7 and 8. The 3 remaining year groups from Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle transfer to high school. New high school at Moreton Hall opens.

Middle Schools

Being a part of the Bury Schools Partnership means that the middle schools are working closely with colleagues from primary and upper schools to ensure that there is a smooth transition for pupils. The Partnership is seeking to make sure it does not lose the high quality middle school teachers in the area and that standards in middle schools are not affected by the closure process. All schools in the Partnership are supporting each other and have invested in projects which will enhance the education of your children and provide the widest range of opportunities possible.

The New High School at Moreton Hall

On 21 November I met with the founding Chairman of Governors of the new high school, Dr Tony Ashmore. The meeting was very productive and work to establish the new high school is progressing very well. Dr Ashmore will soon be meeting with governors from across Bury St Edmunds and with the governors here at Sebert Wood. Site surveys for the building are taking place and the council's designers are working with the sponsor (The National Education Trust – NET—www.nationaleducationtrust.net) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council on plans for the school buildings and the sports and leisure facilities. The first phase of works is due for completion in summer 2016 and the sports and leisure facilities will be available for community use and will provide a welcome enhancement of local facilities. The school will initially be designed with teaching accommodation for 600 pupils but with infrastructure (e.g. main hall, dining, kitchen, sports' hall, admin areas) to support 900 pupils, so that the school can expand in a planned way. The school could then grow to take up to 1800 pupils (including a 6th form) when all of the planned housing for the town is occupied.