Dear Parent/Carer,

Our Playground Plan for the New Year

After further consultation with our project manager and construction team the following plans have been agreed and will commence in the new year to ensure a better play space for our children.

The following is being funded by the project contingency:

1. Our existing play area will be covered with a terram material and then overlaid with wood chips. This will provide a useable space within the school grounds.

2. We agreed that the pitch directly in front of the miners club is to be fenced off to allow it to be used by the school at break times and lunch times. The fence will also prevent dog walkers entrance and dog fouling in the area. The pitch will have two pedestrian gates. One at the school side for the children and the other at the miners side for the football team. Both gates will be padlocked. A toilet unit will be located inside the fenced off area but away from the grass pitch to provide easy access to toilets for our children. We anticipate that this could be installed during the first two weeks in January with the area being capable of being brought into use by Monday the 20th of January.

Daily risk assessments (before break and before lunch) will be carried out to ensure the area is safe for use and staffing is being allocated as appropriate.

3. The pitch area will have a draining facility and the grass will be sand silt. This will help to support the long-term use of the pitch.

5. The staff car park entrance at the back of the school will be closed off during school hours and no deliveries will be permitted to the back of the school. This will allow this area to be used as a shorter route for the children to be taken to the pitch at the miners club. The gates will be locked and closed by the janitor who will then open one of them at times to suit the school (at break and lunch). A temporary pedestrian barrier will be located in front of these gates as an additional safety measure. As the children exit the school site they will turn left and walk towards the bus stop location which is where the traffic lights will be located to provide a safe crossing area. Staff will transport children across the road at the start and end of break and lunch.

6. Facilities Management services to carry out all risk assessments and pre-use inspections of the pitch area from the 20th of January.
7. Additional staff will be recruited to support the school in providing playground supervision.

We really appreciated your support and patience as we work through providing our children will the best possible playground facility whilst our new school is being built. On return in January we aim to get the children out as much as possible but we need to also be aware that there will be works being carried out on the play space at the front of the school so this may be out of use for a short period of time. If our children require to be kept in for the first week or two to allow the works to continue then every class will continue to be timetabled to allow them access to an outdoor space for fresh air and some games.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year when it comes.

Have a lovely holiday and take care.
Best wishes

MRS S CAMPBELL
Head Teacher