



Ambleside Academy

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Principal: Ms J Bromley

7th May, 2021

Exciting Developments in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting project which we are about to embark upon, to improve provision for our very youngest pupils. Our Trust is fully supportive of our plans for improvement and has agreed to invest considerably in improving the EYFS learning environment.

The first phase will be the transformation of the three existing Foundation 2 Classes and 'Nest' space into: a brand new unit for our Reception pupils, and a fully self-contained learning space for pupils with special educational needs. Our focus in EYFS is on ensuring that continuous provision (which is accessed independently by children) is high quality, and enables children to make good progress and develop as effective learners. We are confident that if we invest in the education of our youngest children, they will reap the rewards as they progress through school.

Our SEN 'Nest' provision is working well, but will be even better in a larger, quieter learning space – with its own toilets, sinks, specialised resources and access to the outdoors.

The planned building work will take place from June to August, so that the new spaces are ready for the start of the academic year, September 2021. This aligns with the national launch of the revised EYFS curriculum.

So that building work can happen safely, with minimal disruption to learning, Classes 1 (Owlet), 2 (Froglet), and 3 (Snakelet) will move to temporary classrooms for the second part of the summer term. The temporary classrooms will be in the Sports Hall. Drop-off and pick-up times will remain unchanged. The Nest will relocate to the Year 6 intervention room, and Chimpanzee class will relocate to the Principal's office. This will be for the remainder of the Summer Term.

There will be an additional INSET day for EYFS staff on 28th May. This means that Nursery and Reception classes are closed to all pupils on Friday 28th May.

Dream Believe Shine

As well as transforming the physical environment, staff will undergo training to help prepare for the launch of the new EYFS curriculum.

These projects and financial investments demonstrate our aspirations for our Academy to be an excellent place of learning for our community, and are underpinned by our motto: Dream, Believe Shine. I know that our staff will apply themselves fully to ensuring your children have minimal disruption to their schooling while the new spaces are being built, and I request your patience and support while we make temporary changes to current classroom arrangements.

The second phase will be the development of the outdoor area for Nursery, Reception and SEN pupils. This will take place in the academic year 2021-22, with considerable investment in outdoor equipment, all weather surfaces and sheltered areas for learning outdoors all year round. This will aid children's physical development as well as contribute to their mental and physical wellbeing, and maximise the use of our huge outdoor space.

I sincerely hope that Covid restrictions continue to ease as transmission reduces, so that we can welcome parents into our new learning spaces at the start of the Autumn Term.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Johnson or me for a discussion.

Kind regards,

Ms Bromley