

Bulge Class Update

<http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>

Dear Parents / Carers and St Mark's Staff,

We've broken for summer and some people will be flopping out on the beach or on other holidays. Back in Hanwell the Bulge Class Construction has begun and we're pleased to share *Bulge Class Update #3*. We'd hoped to get this out to you before the end of term, but there was simply too much going on. We hope you'll understand.

It's been a few months since Issue #2 in April, but there's been a great deal of activity. We've had open meetings for parents and carers on the 25 May with questions to Governors, and another open meeting with Ealing Council and the building contractors ARJ hosted by the school and Governors at the school on 15 June. A few members of the community also joined these meetings. You can see presentations and details on the school website at <http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>.

We know there are challenges ahead and very much hope we can count on your support as we work through the transitional phase in the coming year. The greatest obvious impact will be the closure of the Lower Boston Road entrance to the school for pupils – see details below.

Below, we provide an update on plans and developments and details of how you can stay in touch with activity on the Bulge Class construction. If you have any questions or queries about the Bulge Construction Project, please get in touch either through the school or email the Governors.

Finding Out the Latest on the St Mark's Construction

Over the summer St Mark's will change a great deal. Along with ARJ contractors and Ealing Council, we'll be doing our best to communicate the progress of the construction activity. These will include:

- Termly Bulge Class Newsletter Updates
- Regular ARJ Contractor's Newsletters
- An information Board on Green Lane side of St Mark's (for those not on the web).
- Photograph updates of activity on site
- Termly Open meetings
- Ongoing school engagement activities

For the latest updates, visit the school website – <http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>

School Entrances for Coming School Year

The entrances from September 2016 will be on Green Lane and through Marlow Court, which will be a pedestrian only entrance for the 2016/17 school year. It does mean that parents and children will need to walk through the Early Years outdoor area. We respectfully ask parents to ensure that children do not play with any of the equipment or resources before school as these will be have been prepared for the day ahead.

Project Update

A week into the contractors coming on site, there is already a great deal of activity. Many rooms have been cleared, with partitions and walls removed, and rooms stripped back in preparation for the refitting.

There's a temporary site office in place with preparatory work being carried out for the permanent offices that will be on the Lower Boston Road entrance.

Before the work began, Ealing Council, [ARJ Construction](#), and the St Mark's Leadership, Site and Governor team met to kick-off the project with the first of what will be many regular project meetings. Review meetings are scheduled fortnightly, with additional communication in between. These cover many issues including checking schedules and deadlines, discussing and resolving issues.

While work has now started, the early discussions looked in greater detail at refitting the Infants Block to accommodate the nursery and the additional reception class (the first of the Bulge Classes). They also looked at works being carried out in the main block that are currently used as the Breakfast Room and Nursery which will become classrooms for one year. Meetings work through each room, checking the design, plans and proposed materials to agree the room specification and materials.

Construction Project Preparation at St Mark's

ARJ Contractors arrived on site on 21 July. Before this the school was working hard in preparation for ARJ's arrival. Staff have been packing up classrooms, clearing out storage spaces and been working hard – often in their own time.. It's been a great opportunity to dispose of unwanted furniture!

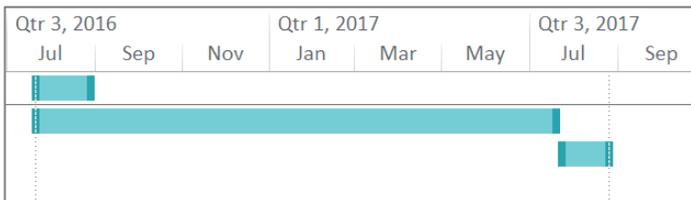
Equipment that's being reused was removed. White boards and other equipment has been taken down and moved, where possible, to speed the vacation of rooms after school closed on Wednesday 20th July.

As soon as school finished on Wednesday, furniture and equipment in classrooms was moved to leave the space vacant for the contractor's arrival on Thursday.

A Tight Deadline

It's a tight schedule of works for the summer. So it's good to see so much progress. Here's a reminder of the three outline phases if you haven't seen them before, along with the outline schedule:

Phase 1 – Start: Summer 2016. Nursery moved to infant block. Infant block area reconfigure for nursery on ground floor, with internal modifications. Preparation of Marlow Court entrance to be used in the 2016/17 school year. In main block, strip-out of current nursery, SEND and breakfast club areas to create two new classrooms and a food technology room. Additional reconfiguration of toilets. Scheduled finish: Week before school starts in late August 2016 to allow staff preparation for Autumn 2016 Term. Duration: Approximately 5½ weeks.



Phase 2 – Start: Summer 2016 (same as Phase 1). Work starts on new hall. Demolition of Caretaker's (originally the Headteacher's) House. Construction of two-storey

building with ground floor hall for dining and other use, with three classrooms on the top floor with lift access. Fit out of small hall as a kitchen to serve the dining hall. Scheduled finish: July 2017 to allow staff preparation for 2017 Autumn Term. Duration: Approximately 13 months

Phase 3 – Start: School Close Summer 2017. Final reconfiguration of main building block to create new Visitor Reception Area, School office, Headteacher's office, refitting of vacated spaces (previous kitchen, school office, school business manager office). Scheduled finish: Late August as for Phase 2. Duration: Approximately 5 weeks.

What are the Benefits to St Mark's?

Accommodating the Bulge Classes is a response to Ealing's projection of increased demand for primary school places in the area. It creates an opportunity for some much needed and long overdue improvements to St Mark's. While the school has two new classes starting reception every year, much of the school is still as it was when St Mark's was a one-form entry school. The benefits include:

- A new hall that can house the whole school at lunchtimes, assemblies and celebrations including a new audio and visual system (with increased PE use of the old main hall)
- A new kitchen that will be able to provide a full menu and cater for universal free school meals
- Three new modern classrooms with up-to-date technology in each room
- The relocation of Nursery to unite Early Years (Nursery and Reception) in one area on the ground floor, with a budget for outside equipment
- More teaching spaces for intervention activity
- An improved school entrance, reception and waiting areas and administration spaces (currently unchanged since the school was one-form entry)
- A food technology space to enhance the curriculum

We are working hard to get the very best from the construction project for St Mark's pupils, staff and the wider community. We will continue to work at sharing updates and progress.

We hope you find the update interesting and useful. If you have any questions or suggestions relating to anything raised above or on the bulge accommodation, please get in touch with any of the Governors or the Headteacher.

Chair of the Governing Body

Headteacher