

Bulge Class Update

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

Dear Parents / Carers and St Mark's Staff,

It's been a busy few months since August when the Bulge Class Construction work began. Visitors to the school can see the activity and children from all years are excited about their involvement in learning around the build. To support that, we're pleased to share the *Bulge Class Update #4* (previous editions are available on the Newsletter section of the school website).

We are very pleased with progress to date. The preparation work carried out in advance of construction work combined with a good working relationship between the school leadership team and the contractors ARJ has seen the creation of a constructive and mutually supportive relationship. That is not to say that there haven't been challenges: a project of this nature will always have surprises. But by working together we have addressed issues that have arisen and we will continue to be alert to issues that may arise.

We'd like to say thank you to staff, pupils, parents and carers for adapting to the changing circumstances. We do know that there are times when the construction work has an impact. Thank you for accommodating these and we hope we can rely on your continued support as we work to improve the facilities that are available to staff and pupils at St Mark's.

Below, we have provided a summary update on activity to date and broad plans going forward. If you have any questions or queries about the Bulge Construction Project, please get in touch either through the school or email the Governors.

Project Update – Phase 1 Complete, 2 Underway

The Bulge Construction Project has three phases running from Summer holidays 2016 to end of Summer holidays 2017.

Phase 1 is complete. Nursery is now located in the Infant block, with a fenced ground floor play space. The vacated space in the main building has been stripped out and modified to accommodate two classes, as well as a new breakfast club area and a food technology room.

Reconfiguration of toilets in the main block resulted in a better distribution of bathroom facilities throughout the main block.

Phase 2 is five months into a 13-month schedule. With good weather – that we hope will continue – the demolition of the Caretaker's House was completed, foundations were dug and filled, with the steel structure now in place. The floors on the ground and first floor are now in place, with scaffold in place for wall building to commence.

At every stage, ARJ are looking to complete possible works by taking advantage of when the school is closed. Over half term, the climbing equipment was reinstalled and the connecting door spaces between the new hall and the corridor in the main building were prepared in advance of being connected to the main school corridor.

After the Christmas holidays the roof and walls on the new building will be built making the building watertight.

Project Benefits – Food, Ask Adam and Time Capsules

One of the important elements of the project has been to try and get the benefits of the Bulge Project into the school as soon as possible.

It's great that St Mark's now has a dedicated Food Technology space; healthy eating and cooking is an essential part of healthy living. Many children have used the space and you may have tasted some of the food that has been produced.

We hoped that the project constructors would engage with our school community; this couldn't have gone better.

Adam Holman, Site Manager for ARJ, has hosted visits to the construction site for all years, and visited classrooms as part of Ask Adam question and answer sessions.

Having found an old R White's drinks bottle during the build, the school has decided to record something for future generations, creating a Time Capsule with a collection of artefacts from St Mark's 2016. This is going to be 'buried' under the new hall floor.

Build Update Evening

Following on from previous Build Question & Answer Sessions in May and June earlier this year, the school hosted a Build Update Meeting on 22 November. Representatives from ARJ Constructors, Ealing Council, school Governors and members of the school leadership team presented an update of activity to date followed by a questions and answer session.

The presentation is available on the Bulge Class Information & Updates part of the school website. The evening covered the priority of St Mark's children within the project, management of the project to minimise the impact on school life as well as images of the work progress to date and an outline of the work schedule for the project team.

Questions focussed on health and safety elements, including questions about dust and construction.

The school will be hosting another session in the Spring Term.

What next with the project?

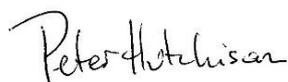
Phase 1 is finished and a few snagging issues are being resolved.

In Phase 2, we are looking at configuration of the kitchen and the integration of the cooking spaces with the dining spaces. We are also reviewing and retesting the layout of the classrooms on the second floor as well as ventilation and acoustics throughout the building.

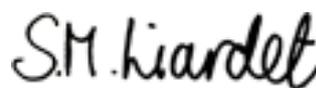
While the structure and functioning of the building is vital, the fixtures and fittings are also important. We're looking at colour schemes, floorings and other options. We will also involve staff and use their professional

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

experience in shaping the layout and resource of teaching spaces.

Phase 3 – is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2017. However, the ARJ team are looking to see what can be delivered ahead of programme to make the most of any spare time.

It's a team effort – thank you

During the build there have been changes to the operations of the school that couldn't work without the cooperation and support of pupils, staff, parents and carers. Thank you.

Marlow Court is working well as a temporary entrance for the 2016/17 year (please avoid parking on this road).

The Green Lane entrance is busy; please do stay on the pavements (rather than waiting on the road)

The entrances will change after the construction work is complete and the hoardings are down.

Finding out the latest on the Bulge Construction Project

You can find out more information about the Bulge Construction Project on the school website. The school website is home to:

- Termly Bulge Class Newsletter Updates
- ARJ Contractor's Presentations
- School newsletters which show the ongoing school engagement activities

Visit the link below for more information – <http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>