

# Newsletter 16

28.05.21



## *Challenge, Equality & Opportunity*

### **New School Update**

If you have had a chance to walk past the new school site, you will have seen some significant changes. The steel is now almost complete and soon the first floor will be in place. The drainage under the field is complete and work is ongoing to the MUGA (all purpose multi use games area). Our most recent meeting was about the landscaped outdoor areas and we are now busy looking at the layout of the Reception outdoor areas, the covered outdoor dining area and the play areas. It is very exciting and we continue to be on a very steep learning curve!



Our design team met last week to consider the name of the school and the logo. We had asked children if they thought that the name of the school should change, and if so, what might it be. We also asked if they thought that we should change the logo. The design team brought lots of ideas to the meeting from their classes and we had a long discussion followed by a vote. The children did vote to change the name of the school, understanding that Broadway East is the name of the street and so won't be appropriate when we move. They also suggested that we could be confused for Gosforth Park who will still be on Broadway East. We then looked at the suggested names brought to the meeting and took a vote. Children were almost all in favour of '**Havannah First School**' and thought that this was a good name because we will be next door to the Havannah Nature Reserve (pictured right) and we are an Eco School. We think that this is a great new name for Broadway East and the Governing Body is also in full agreement. We won't use our new name until we relocate although you might see it later in the build project on our new building. The design team agreed with us that our sunshine logo is the best we have ever seen and that we should keep it so that some of our identity and important history stays with us. The Governors and staff like this idea a lot too.



## **Transport Survey**

Thank you to everyone who responded to the transport to the new site survey on ParentMail. The data has now been shared with the LA so that planning the transport assistance can begin.

## **Road Safety**

You might already be aware of a very serious accident at the junction near to Asda/M&S. A pupil from another school was seriously injured on the way to school. We cover road safety with the children in school in an age appropriate way and we work with Newcastle City Council and other partners to support children's understanding of safety when they are out and about. I know that you will agree that the roads around the schools in Gosforth are very busy, congested and difficult to navigate. We have always been concerned by the crossings on Broadway East and West as well as the volume of traffic immediately around our school. Please do all that you can to reduce the congestion, to drive and park safely and to reinforce the safety messages to your children so that we can avoid any more accidents. Our work with the Police, the City Council and the Trust will continue to focus on road safety and we will keep you up to date.

## **Bike Thefts**

We alerted you recently to some bike thefts which had occurred at Gosforth East Middle School. Unfortunately, Mr Stout has been in touch again to tell us that there has been a recurrence of attempted thefts of bikes by teenagers with cutting tools. We will do all we can to prevent this from happening on our site, but you might like to consider locking your children's bikes when you leave them on site or taking them back home with you.

## **Progress in Maths**

Five years ago we changed the way we taught maths throughout school and moved to a 'mastery' approach from Reception to Year 4. We are now seeing the results of this with the older children in school who are absolutely flying with their learning in maths! Well done to staff and pupils for persevering and meeting the challenges which have led to great progress!

## **PTFA News**

The PTFA committee is very frustrated because we are so limited in what we can do in school. We have recently met to discuss the possibility of some things which we might be able to do before the end of term and we will keep you up to date with any plans which might be able to become a reality!

## **School Guidance**

The school guidance has not changed since I last mentioned it and we have no timescale of what might change when. We continue to be vigilant with all of our measures in school to mitigate the risks and we are extremely grateful to you all for your support with this. Please remember to use the reporting form on ParentMail if your child has a positive PCR test in the holiday.

Next week is half term week and the weather forecast looks promising! I hope that you all have a lovely week and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher