



3rd February 2021

Portsmouth City Council approve **EXCITING** development plans!

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you're keeping safe and well. As we continue home schooling and surviving lockdown, I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you all.

Penhale Infant School has just received a long-awaited boost to development plans, as confirmed by Portsmouth City Council, which will result in the school receiving a much needed upgrade to the buildings.

This revelation allows the school to begin refurbishment next term with some areas being ready in time for the start of the September 2021 term.

As you can imagine, my team and I are very excited by this news, our school is an integral part of our community and we are committed to ensuring your children receive the best possible education.

BUILDING AND EXPANDING

The funding will cover large developments, due to take place between April and September 2022.

Firstly, the Local Authority are funding a provision for 16 children with cognition and learning barriers to be educated at the Penhale site. This will be starting with 6-8 children from September 2021 and their class will be called 'Rainbow Fish' in keeping with the theme of naming the classes in this way. This inclusion centre will be an integral part of both the Infant and the Junior School. This will be part of the wider inclusion offer within Portsmouth and we will be working closely with the SEN team within Portsmouth City Council to deliver this.

Secondly, we will use some of the funding we will receive to redevelop areas of the school that are in most need. We are very excited about the changes that have been put forward for upgrading, including installing a brand new kitchen downstairs to make it more accessible for all, updating all the classrooms and redesigning the reception area. Penhale currently has a strange layout which we are very excited to redesign, adding some extra features such as a dedicated meeting rooms, updating shared spaces and relocating our library to where the children will continue to develop their love of reading in an amazing space.

CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER

Finally, as you know Penhale Infant School & Nursery and Newbridge Junior School have been working very closely together over the past year and I am excited to continue to strengthen this relationship even further. The two schools, only a mile apart in location, will continue to deliver the very high standards of learning that they currently do, but with a consistent approach from Nursery and Reception through to Year 6. The children will benefit from a 'one school, one staff' approach, ensuring that transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 is seamless. Many of our parents already choose to send their children from the infants to the junior school and we hope this will further encourage the 'all-through' primary education that we feel is very important for our children.

www.penhaleinfantschool.org.uk

www.newbridgejuniorschool.org.uk

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Penhale Infant School and Newbridge Junior School are members of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR.
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FEEDBACK/COMMENTS

Across the term I will continue to update you and share more information on everything I have mentioned above and keep you informed with how the projects are progressing.

We would really appreciate comments and questions that you may have about both exciting opportunities. If you wish to do so, please complete this form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvD3yCzJY2CJDkdGwlTk_LydUNI4WFhUU1hQODFINFZSNjFTQkJMThaVC4u

I would like to thank all the governors, staff, parents and pupils who have, over the years worked in close partnership to support both schools in creating a thriving and close-knit community.

I am really looking forward to the next phase of our successful journey.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anna Webb
Headteacher of Newbridge Junior School and Penhale Infants School & Nursery