



DOVE FIRST SCHOOL



RYECROFT C.E. (C) MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thursday 26th May 2016

Dear Parents

We are very much looking forward to our re-location to the brand new school site where Dove First School and Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School will share the building.

This is the first of many joint letters we will be sending to parents and carers of both schools as part of this exciting journey we are undertaking together. We believe our new school is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about transforming the face of education for generations to come, providing learning environments in which every young person can unlock their talents and achieve their very best. It will build better futures for all our young people, the teaching profession and the wider communities that it serves.

Due to its location, many of you will have witnessed the creation of this unique building. Many children, staff and governors have already visited the site, with more visits planned before the end of term. The new school will provide an environment that is practical and attractive that will engage and stimulate the user in both its internal and external environments. It includes:

- Large and small learning areas including several group rooms
- Specialist facilities for sport, art, technology, music and science
- Specialist equipment to promote accessibility
- Communal, multi-purpose spaces
- Opportunities for socialisation (both indoors and outdoors)

It will be a welcoming and inspirational centre for learning in which the community can take pride.

However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the planned date for occupation of the building is Tuesday 6th September 2016.

Governors of both schools, alongside the headteachers and staff, are committed to providing a safe and appropriate environment for all children. With this in mind, it has been decided that the school will be open for the children on Thursday 8th September 2016. Whilst we appreciate that this may cause some families inconvenience, it is vital that staff are confident and competent in all aspects of health and safety, including safeguarding, before children are allowed into school. This decision, although difficult, has been reached in consultation with staff from other schools who have recently moved into new buildings.

There are a wide range of essential tasks which must take place before pupil occupation:

- Familiarisation of the external space, including storage
- Procedures for the safety of children and staff in external spaces
- Establish routines for monitoring visitors
- Familiarisation of internal space
- Fire evacuation procedures
- Security of the building and grounds
- Risk assessments for all areas
- Ensuring classrooms and other rooms provide an appropriate and safe learning environment
- Safeguarding procedures
- First Aid provision
- Health and safety induction for all staff
- Launch and test essential IT systems (including administration networks and emergency contact information)
- The operation of heating, lighting, fire system, water checks
- Staff training for new classroom IT systems
- Information sharing between staff of both schools

This is not an exhaustive list but due to the nature of many of the tasks listed above, it is impossible for these to take place until we have full access to the new school site.

To help parents and carers to plan for children starting school on Thursday 8th September 2016, governors were keen to communicate this information at the earliest opportunity. We know you will support us in this decision as the safety of the children is of the utmost importance.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Gilchrist
Headteacher
Dove First School
Tel: 01889 590203



Mr S Bardon
Headteacher
Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School
01889 590394