



St. John's Catholic Primary School

Rochester Road
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 2SY

Jonathan Shields MBA, BA, PGCE
Head Teacher

Mrs Paula Cooneyhan
Deputy Head Teacher

21 September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As a Governing Body, we feel it is an opportune time to write to you about the on-going building works.

As you are aware, in 2013/14 the Diocese and Kent County Council asked us to expand from 3 form entry (90 children) to 4 form entry (120 children) per year. Initially, we were reluctant, however both parties presented compelling arguments as to why we should. Eventually, it was agreed and Kent County Council agreed to pay all costs.

Phase 1 started in the summer of 2017 and was due to finish by January/February 2018. That phased has overrun to now. Phases 2 and 3 are being done by a larger building company Kier. They have now started work, but 15 weeks later than expected.

Phases 2 and 3 is a £3million extension being built by Kier. The architects are Bailey Partnership and client is Kent County Council. This means that the school has no say in the major works and has to deal with the disruptions and eventualities as they arise e.g. safe routes to enter and exit the buildings.

The main day to day focus for Mr Shields and the staff is the education and safeguarding of all children. However, senior staff have become increasingly tied up dealing with minimising the effects of the building works.

They do their very best, in the most trying of circumstances and deserve your total support. They will continue to try to ensure the disruption to the children and staff is kept to a minimum.

Yours sincerely

Karen Thompson
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Parents and Carers
St Johns Catholic Primary School
Rochester Road
Gravesend
DA12 2SY

Children Young People &
Education
Worrall House
30 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
Kent ME19 4AE

Date: 21 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Kent County Council expresses its gratitude to the school staff, parents, carers and children who have shown much patience and flexibility during the ongoing building works. The expansion of St John's Catholic Primary School will ensure the authority delivers on its statutory requirement to deliver school places and it would not be possible without the ongoing cooperation and willingness of the school.

August has seen the much-awaited completion of the Phase 1 work which has provided three new classrooms and a new studio. This has been a lengthy process but is now at an end with the rooms being available for the school to enjoy.

Phase 2 consists of a further seven classrooms, a new staff room and a small hall. Four classrooms will be constructed in a two-storey link building. Along with the new staff room, these will be completed early in the new year.

Phase 2 also includes the construction of two new playgrounds on the playing field at the rear of the school. These works will begin later this month and should be completed late autumn/early winter.

The remaining works will be completed by September 2019.

Delivering building works of this nature within a live school environment is challenging. The school is not responsible for delivering these works but continue to do all they can to ensure the day to day running of the school is unaffected by them.

Yours sincerely

Ian Watts
Area Education Officer for North Kent