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"To live, love and learn in a caring Christian Community"

Dear parents,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Governing Body to tell you some good news. You may be aware that we have been striving to find funds to re-build the main school building for at least the last 10 years. The main building is structurally unsound and we have had to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to keep it safe without being able to afford many improvements.

We applied for funding under the Governments' Priority School Building Programme (PSBP2) in 2014 and we were successful. We now have an agreement that we are going to get a new school building. We are 95% certain that this will mean a new building to be built on the current play area whilst the school continues to run from the present building. During February, this decision will be confirmed but there is still a small chance that we will have a complete refurbishment of the present building which would have to take place whilst the school is re-housed in a temporary accommodation block on the playing fields.

In addition to this good news, we are delighted to inform you that the Local Authority have agreed that our new school should be a two form entry school and they will fund the extra classes needed. This will mean that we will be able to admit 60 pupils per year group, rather than the current 45. It will also mean that when we are in the new building that we will no longer have to have mixed year group classes.

Presently, the aim is to get planning consent by April 2018 and that building will actually start in May 2018. We hope that the new school will be fully up and running from September 2019.

The Local Authority have to consult the public about the proposal for us to become a two form entry school. This process is going to start this week. We hope that most people in Bishop's Stortford will support this as the town needs more primary school places currently and that this demand is only going to increase dramatically as the thousands of new houses get built over the coming years.

We do not have any more details at the moment. Over the next year, we will be working through the processes required with consultation and then we will be involved in the development and design stages before the planning application is submitted.

We will let you know when we have the final decision between a new school building or a full refurbishment but either way we will be able to expand to two form entry.

Happy New Year to you all,

Suzanne Fitzgerald
Chair of Governors