

## Team Talk | 26.06.2020

*Dear Families,*

What a time! It feels like an age since I wrote a 'normal' newsletter – but I am so pleased to be able to write to you with updates that aren't all about COVID-19! As I write, the vast majority of our reception children are back, in their two bubbles. They are settled, happy and thriving; we were so excited to finally have children in the building! Those that are at home, we are still providing the same regular tasks and keeping in touch via phone call. And as always, we totally respect parents' decisions at this time.

It has been an incredibly busy time for us and I can't actually believe that I was handed the keys to the school in the height of the pandemic. The builders worked throughout and we are forever grateful to them for their heroic efforts to 'get us in'. We are also thankful to our colleagues at Le Cateau, who took care of a couple of our children who were in urgent need of childcare when we were closed. Our staff have worked so hard to make school perfect for the return of our children – a real team effort which went above and beyond in every way. I am so proud of them.

Below are a few updates, which we thought you might like to hear about...

### Staff for Year 1

You should know by now that during the closure we appointed Mr Marshall as our new Year 1 teacher. He has been in and met the children (from a distance) and already made a great start in preparing for next year. I know that he is going to be the perfect follow on from Mrs Guest and the team! We have also appointed a new experienced teaching assistant for Year 1, Mrs Maguire, who also has a strong forces background – again, a perfect fit for us! We are also delighted that Mrs Baker, who has supported in reception this year, will continue to work in reception next year, meaning both classrooms will have particularly high levels of TA support. Both myself and the children are delighted that Mrs Simpson will move to Year 1 with the children. What brilliant transition!



Reception Class	Year 1
Mrs. Guest Mrs. Watson Mrs. Baker	Mr. Marshall Mrs. Simpson Mrs. Maguire

### Our New Reception Class

Our new reception class is full! We were well oversubscribed for September which means that we will have a class of 30 children. We have called all new families, spoken to nursery settings and held an online welcome meeting – but we can't wait to meet the children and families face to face. New families should have received all information from us by now, so if you haven't received the welcome pack, or a copy of the welcome presentation, please get in touch.

### September?

We are still awaiting detailed guidance from the government about what 'September' will look like in practice. As soon as we have this, we will produce our plan and once it is approved by Trustees, we will share it. We are hoping to do this by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Rest assured that ourselves and Trustees will do everything in our power to ensure that a return to school in September is as safe and exciting as possible. School will not be open over the school holidays. Children will return on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

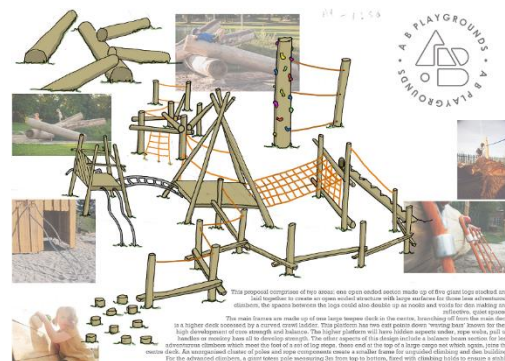
## Governors

The governors of Cambrai have had their term extended for another year – which we are delighted about. Because of COVID-19, the last few meetings have had to be cancelled so we felt like we were just getting started! Sadly, Cllr. Pat Middlemiss has had to relinquish her role as governor, but we are actively pursuing links to a new appointment. This cannot, however, be a parent or staff appointment, as those quotas are full. As a reminder, your parent governors are Matthew Rennison and Lotti Hutchinson.

## The School Site

Now the building is complete (apart from a few tiny snags), attention is turned to the wider site. You may have seen the new play area start to be built – which will be brilliant! AB Playgrounds are constructing it and it will be the most exciting and challenging area possible for a primary school! An illustration is opposite and it will be completed before the end of term.

There are still some ongoing works to the quality of the grassed areas and the car park and school yard should be completed over the summer break. In essence, by September, we are hoping that everything will be 'finished'.



If you haven't seen the video walk through of the building or site, please take a look on our Facebook page, or follow the links from our website <https://www.cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk/the-site>



## Play Equipment – spare boat?

In September we are launching in to an exciting project with the OPAL group (outside play and learning) – where we undertake significant training and development in relation to play and the use of the outdoors. As such, if you have anything interesting that we could use to enhance outdoors 'creative play' please let us know. Mr. Rennison has already sourced us a couple of HUGE tyres, but if you have an old boat, canoe, or something that you think would be great for imaginative play that can be left outside let us know! We are hoping to change the small yard area in to a loose parts play zone next year!

## Snacks and Food

The government free fruit scheme won't re-start until September, so we are providing daily snacks – but milk is back up and running! As our children are having to eat in their classrooms, we are providing a 'box meal' each day. These are hot or cold and the children (and staff) are really enjoying them! Everything is home-made, so we've had home-made sausage rolls, sandwich choices, wraps, 'McCambrai Burger' etc – Mrs Lambert is trying her best to be as creative as can be!

## Paternity Leave

Some of you may know that as of yesterday, I am shielding at home, in preparation for the birth of our second daughter next Wednesday. My paternity leave will extend to the middle of the final week – but all being well, I will be back for the last couple of days to see the children leave for the summer holidays. During this time, please email the school email, or Mrs Guest directly at [squest@cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:squest@cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk). I look forward to sharing the photos!

Please continue to stay safe, and as always, thank you for being part of our Cambrai family.

Take good care,

Mr. M. Dent  
**Executive Headteacher**  
Cambrai Primary School

