

EXCITING NEWS FOR RAMSBURY SCHOOL

At its meeting on 6 November 2008, the Governing Body agreed to proceed with a project to provide a new building on the school site.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of this new building will be to provide a **dedicated space for creative arts, music and drama**. However when it is not in use for this purpose, it will also provide:

- a quiet and dedicated space for a library and reading
- a quiet place for Teaching Assistants to work with children individually or in a small groups
- a space for Design & Technology activities
- much needed storage space
- a quiet place for teachers to do their planning and marking
- a facility that will be offered to the community for community activities
- a facility for after-school care should we choose to offer it on-site longer term

At Ramsbury School we are very proud of the fact that we offer an education well beyond the National Curriculum. This, in part, has contributed to us being judged an Outstanding school. But it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide this education in our present, very cramped accommodation, particularly with our high pupil numbers. **We believe that the new building will greatly enhance the all-round education and development of our children.**

WHAT WILL THE BUILDING CONSIST OF?

A range of options was considered by the Governing Body and the decision was made to progress the option of a **high quality timber framed building**. Our intention is that:

- it will be bespoke and made to our design specification for the activities above
- it will be about 65 m2 in area with about 45 m2 tuition space, plus storage, washroom and a small utility area
- it will be light and airy
- it will have good acoustics
- it will be modern and environmentally-friendly

WHERE WILL IT BE SITUATED?

Our intention is that **it will be set slightly in to the playground bank at the north end of the playground** where the shed is currently. We have chosen this location because:

- it is away from the school so there will be no disruption from music or drama to other school activities
- it is an opportunity to landscape the surrounding banks

WHEN WILL THE WORK BE DONE?

We are hoping to carry out the work in **summer 2009** making use of the long summer holidays and ready for the new academic year. If it cannot be done then, it will be delayed to summer 2010.

COST OF PROJECT

We have some government funding for capital projects in our school budget. However to proceed with the project, we estimate that **we will need to raise £75,000 to supplement school funds.**

CURRENT STATUS OF PROJECT

Much detailed work is now taking place including a detailed specification, cost schedule and project plan, quotations from at least 3 suppliers, county surveyor's report, and planning consent.

With immediate effect we are also starting a major fundraising campaign.

The final decision as to whether we will proceed with the new building in summer 2009 will be made by the Governing Body in March/April 2009. It will be dependent on the outcome of the detailed project work and the success of our fundraising.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

If we are to be successful in raising £75,000 before summer 2009, we need to engage **the whole school community** in this campaign - children, parents, extended families, staff, governors, the PTA and the RSdT.

We will also seek to engage the local Ramsbury /Axford community as a whole as this facility will significantly enhance the offering of the school and provide a location for community activities.

Because of the time scale, the campaign will need to be very energetic and focussed but it will be short and sharp - FOR ONE YEAR ONLY.

Fundraising activities will include social events, sponsored activities, a major Auction of Promises, one off donations and grant applications.

We will do the major launch of the campaign in January, when we will suggest ways in which you can help us but we wanted to let you know about our plans as early as possible. Please come to the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6th December which will be our first fundraising event. We will have a display about the project and will be available to talk to you about it.

At the heart of this project is the education and all-round development of the children at Ramsbury School. Please join us in making this exciting possibility into a reality for them.

Copies of the newsletter items regarding our progress:

NEWSLETTER 6

Monday 24th November 2008

Excitement City!

All families received a letter last week announcing the very exciting news of our plans for a new building for music, drama and the library. Lots of parents have already come forwards with fundraising ideas – from climbing the 3 peaks to running the Reading marathon! If you have any ideas, and if your company could match any money you might be able to make, please speak to Miss Price.



NEWSLETTER 7

Monday 8th December 2008

Our Great New Space!

A huge thank you to the PTA and all the people who helped at our very successful Christmas Bazaar on Saturday. We made over £2500! We were really pleased to see so many of you and thank you for showing your support so readily to this year's major fundraising campaign.



More people have signed up for running the Reading Marathon, either the whole 26 miles or in a relay group.

Many thanks to *Mr Bob Foale*, who has offered the school his professional services as a surveyor, to survey the site. We also thank *Mr O'Farrell*, who will be filming the Christmas Extravaganza, during the rehearsal, so that we are able to sell the DVD to those who would like a copy. The very first 'Our Great New Space' sticker for fundraising went to *Gabriel Shenoy* who drew 3 pictures and sold them, with the proceeds being the first coins going towards our £75,000 target.

If you have any further ideas, and if your company could match any money you might be able to make, please speak to Miss Price. Together, we can make our school even better.

NEWSLETTER 8
Monday 5th January 2009

Our Great New Space

This month is the formal launch of our major fundraising campaign to raise £75,000 towards 'Our Great New Space'. We will be having presentations in the hall to share more of the project and to give you an opportunity to ask questions. We have been really pleased with the response we have received for the building and thank you all for showing your support so readily to this year's major fundraising campaign.



Many thanks to :
the PTA who made a grand and final total of £2722 from the Christmas Bazaar;
all the children who worked so hard and everyone who watched the Christmas Extravaganza and bought the DVD – you raised an amazing £1566;
the PTA who organised the disco which raised £150
First Water who have donated £200 towards our fundraising;
and to individuals who have donated £85.

<p style="text-align: center;">This brings our grand total so far to: £4723</p>
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