

10th June 2019

Dear Parent and Carers,

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) , New Developments, Plans and Updates

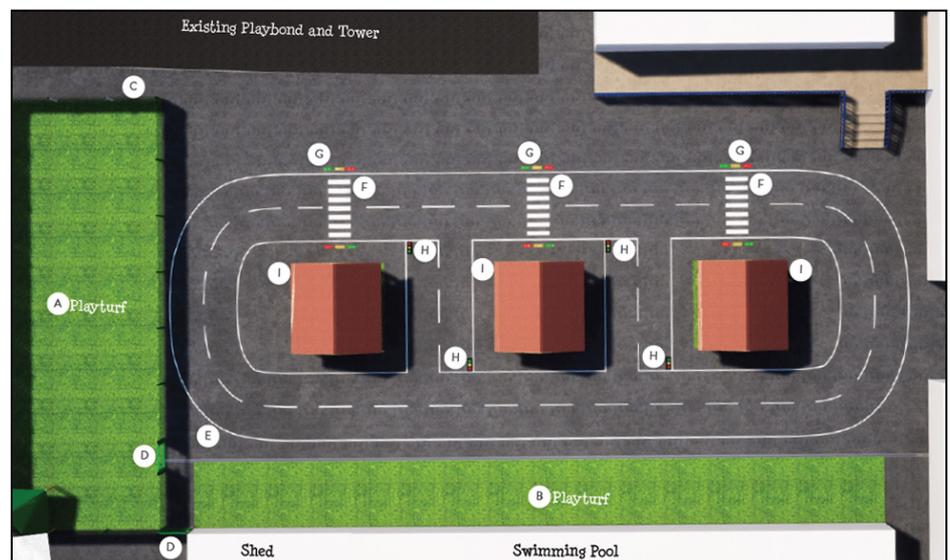
Despite a very challenging budget, the school is committed to providing the very best equipment, resources and environment possible to meet the wellbeing and learning needs of all students. Currently the school is planning and fundraising for some exciting site developments in collaboration with the PFA both at the main school and at the Avelon site which we would like to share with you.

Main School

The school has have some very accessible, exciting outdoor play areas at the main school such as the three sensory playground areas (sand play, water play and picnic and trampoline area), adventure/climbing play area, sensory garden as well as the solar domes. All of these facilities have been funded from external charitable grants or funding. The lower school playground has not been updated in some time and currently consists of an open concrete space. This would be a more useful if it was re-designed to encourage a more structured, safer environment for creative and physical play to develop active, social, communication and interaction skills.

Prospective plans include three flexible sheltered and fenced areas to be used for themed, focused activities (sand play, water play, lego, cars, etc.). The pupils were asked what their favourite activity is on the playground, and the resounding majority response was riding the bikes.

So the area surrounding the covered spaces will incorporate a road design for the bike riding to continue but whilst learning road safety and the 'rules' of the road. 'Pedestrian' playground users will also need to have a level of road awareness when moving around the area and so this will provide a safe but early introduction to keeping safe. The final main area will be a fenced astro-turfed ball games area for more active physical play.



We are actively fundraising for this which will cost in the region of £60,000. This can only be funded through our external fundraising via the PFA from charitable grants and monies raised from local activities. We will keep you updated on progress towards our target.

The Avelon Site

Since September 2016, the school has occupied a part of the Avelon site in Rainham for the Post 16 provision and since September 2018 for the Post 19 provision. We were fortunate in receiving a grant from the Local Authority for funding towards the addition of outdoor gym equipment. The school had to apply for planning permission for this to proceed and to add a covered gazebo and shed for horticulture activities, which this has just been granted. So, towards the end of June soft surfacing will be laid and six items of gym equipment will be installed. This will be a wonderful facility for the students to use to keep active, fit and healthy. Soon after this, the school will be arranging for a shed, covered gazebo and accessible pathways to be installed. A number of recycled plastic benches and tables have been added to the outside space and very soon four new large planters will be delivered to extend the horticulture activities available to students.



We are currently taking part in the Tesco Bag for Life scheme where shoppers get to vote for a charity by placing their tokens in the appropriate box when shopping in stores across Havering and Brentwood. Please take the opportunity to vote for us when you are there next. The appeal is to raise funds to further develop the outside space at the Avelon.

PFA Events

Recently, Lesley Nutley, Zoe Smith, Laura Forbes, Nicky Sargent, Emma Marston and Sian Tate organised a Fundraising disco at the Railway Arms Function Room in Hornchurch. They did an amazing job and the evening was a great success with some fantastic raffle prizes donated including a large screen TV. They raised over £1,000 and gave parents and carers a great social opportunity. We are so grateful for all of their efforts and hard work to pull it all together.

PFA Membership

The Parents and Friends Association is a group of parents, staff and local people who want to assist the school in providing equipment, resources and facilities to benefit the children and young people at the school. They are always seeking to welcome more involvement from parents and carers who can give as little or as much time that they can spare.

Some parents work for large organisations that will match fund or issue grants for charities with a link to their employees. Some parents may want to help in organising an event or a sponsored activity to raise funds for a specific project or general use. Parents or carers can get involved in the gift day sales by helping to buy items to sell or attending on the day to help sell and wrap the items and help the students in making their purchases.

There are many ways to get involved and this would be very welcomed. The next officers meetings is on 17th June at 9.30am. Please contact Sue Cumbers on 07920 514576 or scumbers@corbetstey.havering.sch.uk if you would like to come along.

Kind Regards,

Eddie Fowles
PFA Chairman