

Increased Intake of Pupils at East Preston

Thank you for the responses that we have received so far through the Gmail account. We would like to reiterate at this time that, although we will endeavour to try to address all concerns and answer questions, there may be some that we simply do not know the answers to yet and may take more time to answer fully.

We have received some criticism about not “being more open earlier”. In response to this we would like to point out that we had had no confirmation from County that we would indeed be expanding until April 16th and were not in a position other than to fuel rumours. We have been working with County for several months but had only been given possible scenarios. We were therefore unable to give any reassurance or facts until County made their decision regarding this September’s intake.

QU. How will 80 children be split between 3 classes? Does that mean class sizes will decrease slightly?

We can confirm we have 80 children starting in Reception this September. We anticipate that they will be in three equally split classes, however as Parents accept places and appeal these numbers can fluctuate.

QU. How many more teachers will be recruited to cover this expansion?

The development will provide the ability to retain our high-quality staff and to attract further high-calibre applicants for the newly created teaching and classroom positions.

QU “You are building a two classroom pod for Sept 2015 and County have proposed a further 3 or 4 classrooms may be built in the following academic year. This suggests the school will rapidly become larger than 3 form entry. Please make these possible plans clearer to parents. How do you intend to cope with this level of expansion?”

Will this be extended to the Junior school in 2019?

All we can confirm at this stage is that we have been asked to accommodate 80 children this year. We have been lead to believe that a further 3 or 4 classes maybe built; however, as this would be a permanent expansion by County, it would involve permanent buildings and have to undergo a set procedure with a public consultation. As soon as County inform us of their intentions we will inform parents.

We cannot comment on Junior School numbers as it’s a separate school.

QU. “What plans will be put in place for the school resources such as the hall and computer room to cope with the school becoming a third, at least, bigger?”

More children will mean we receive more funding from the Government. Although this is to cater for the needs of the additional form of entry, it will undoubtedly benefit the entire school. The current building can cater for the additional numbers this year.

QU. “How do you intend to cope with school drop off and pickup times becoming a third, at least, busier in future years? Do you think that the residential roads outside school can cope?”

For the next academic year we are only talking about 20 more children. The purpose of a public consultation is to highlight any concerns of this nature which would only happen if County decide to make the expansion permanent.

QU. Have the other local schools been requested to have an additional intake of children?

Rustington County Primary school is expanding and all the local schools have been evaluated by County to assess whether they can be expanded. The expansion is due to an increase in children in the area.

QU. Finally and most importantly why are we not just building new schools to cope with ever growing housing developments rather than overloading existing schools, surely this would benefit the children more?

Please ask at the possible consultation. Those decisions are political and financial and not within our control.