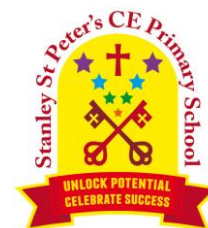


Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022



Dear Parents/Carers

Many of you will be aware that the standalone nursery building on our site was relinquished back into the local authority's possession a couple of years ago. The reason being that it was simply too expensive for the school to run that separate building when we could easily accommodate our nursery children within our main school premises. The building has remained largely unused ever since.

On the Thursday before we broke up for half-term, I was made aware that the local authority have finally determined a use for the building. The space will be used to accommodate a small cohort of Key Stage 2 pupils from Pinderfields Hospital Pupil Referral Unit. It will be a small, specialist setting for children who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) because of a medical condition, disability and/or early social communication and interaction difficulties.

I know when people hear the word PRU they develop the misconception that the children must have severe behaviour issues, but I want to reassure you that this is not going to be the case. Many of the children that will be attending the specialist setting are non-verbal and all have been diagnosed with ASD (autism) and/or complex medical conditions. Special school places are in high demand and there is simply not the capacity available at the moment within the local authority to accommodate and educate all these wonderful children; therefore, we are immensely proud to be playing a small part in helping to remedy this matter.

Whilst the specialist setting will be on our premises, it will be completely separate from the rest of school and registered separately with Ofsted. The children attending that setting will access the separate building through the entrance off Long Causeway. A large panelled fence will be constructed to block the view from our EYFS area and make the setting safe, and it will have its own team of highly specialist staff. We will however, look to work very closely with the setting and forge strong links with it, and its team, as we feel that there will be immense benefits to both sets of our children.

I am certain that you will have many questions regarding how this will affect your child and our school so I would like to invite you to attend a Q&A session on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 5pm. During this session you can meet with me and the headteacher of the current EYFS and KSI Pinders PRU (which is situated on Mackie Hill Junior and Infant School's site) to ask any questions and find out some more information.

Kind regards,

Michelle Wiggins  
Headteacher



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