



**Edition 6: Friday 14th October
2022**

Dates for your Diary

Sat 15 th Oct	Infant Football Tournament
Mon 17 th Oct	EYFS open morning 8.50-9.30am
Mon 17 th Oct	PDSA meeting 7pm via Zoom*
Thurs 20 th Oct	EYFS First Class Newbury weekly News photo
Thurs 20 th Oct	3.15pm Break up for half term
Tues 1 st Nov	Start of term
Weds 2 nd Nov	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Thurs 3 rd Nov	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Mon 7 th Nov	Y6 heights and weights with school nursing team
Mon 14 th Nov	Odd Socks Day*
Mon 14 th and Tues 15 th Nov	Tim Furr art workshops for Year 2-6 *
Mon 14 th Nov	Launch Swift Couriers Toy Appeal *
Fri 18 th Nov	Children in Need*
Mon 17 th Oct	EYFS open morning 8.50-9.30am
Tues 29 th Nov	Individual photos*

*More information coming soon

This week at Parsons Down...

- ✓ This week's **attendance** for EYFS and Key Stage 1 was 93% this week and for Key Stage 2 it was 92%.
- ✓ **Year 2 children** had a fabulous trip to lakes on Monday afternoon as part of their latest Geography project. A huge thank you to the volunteers that made this possible.
- ✓ We welcomed **Year 4** families for an information to find out more about the planned Year 4 residential trip to **Minstead** study centre in the New Forest. We sent a letter out yesterday to find out final numbers for the trip.
- ✓ We're looking forward to taking a team of Year 2 footballers to the **Infant School Football Festival** on Saturday. We've redesigned and upgraded the Parsons Down sports kit over the summer and we hope they enjoy representing the school and being the first to wear it. Good luck to the team!
- ✓ We'd like all parents with children on our **Special Education Needs** register to complete the West Berkshire SEND survey. Simple click on the link below and complete the survey by Monday 24th October. Results will be used by the school and West Berks to review SEND provision <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SENDSupport2022>
- ✓ We're looking forward to our first **EYFS open morning** on Monday 17th October from 8.50-9.30am. Please do come along and see your child's learning in action.
- ✓ Thanks to everyone who's already sent back their **Parents' Evening** letter. Please return forms ASAP. Appointment times will be sent out on Thursday 20th October. If you have not received an appointment letter please email the school office.
- ✓ We're looking forward to **Monday's PDSA AGM**. More details are on the newsletter. Please do come along.
- ✓ We've been planning for an **opening ceremony** of the Partnership now we're all in one building. Next Thursday, 20th October we will be welcoming some local dignitaries to a special celebration assembly

Finally, be kind, be safe, be respectful, Mrs Bull





Parsons Down Schools Association (PDSA) is run by a committee of volunteers. They work closely with the school to run events that enrich our children's school experience and raise vital funds for the schools. The current committee are an established group but many of their children left school in July and we desperately need new volunteers to work to continue to run the PDSA.

It all suits all ages and levels of commitment from helping to arrange events, volunteering at home, helping out at a disco or taking on one of our committee roles.

We've got exciting plans for this year but we need your help. We want to continue the events such as regular discos and we want to raise funds to continue developing the school grounds (see plan below)

Please do come along to our first meeting of the year on Monday 17th October at 7pm via Zoom

PDSA Meetings

Our next meeting is
going to be via Zoom

on 17th October 7pm

Zoom Code 739 3737 6225

Password - PDSAAGM

Everyone welcome!

Parsons Down Partnership School — Emerging Strategy Plan

Describing our ambition for the grounds

Area 1: New Copse

Ambition: Area of additional tree planting created to provide an area of shade and shelter, plus an area where physical developmental play can be enjoyed.

Ideas and Requirements:

- Contact West Berks regarding large specimen trees to be planted within this area, and to be bolstered up with additional planting using donations from The Woodland Trust. Suitable protective fencing to be put around this planting while it establishes.
- Area created to support physical play including Den Building, Imaginative Play and climbing activities.
- Area to be encouraged for use to support Outdoor Teaching and Learning providing natural shade and with appropriate storage to encourage spontaneous lessons to be held out here.
- **Area 1a**—Area designated for play by KS1 pupils with age appropriate resources in suitable storage.
- **Area 1b**—Quiet Space for KS2 pupils providing true natural qualities to the space including willow sculptures and tunnels.

★ Area 2: Role Play / Stage Area

Ambition: To provide an area where children can be imaginative and creative in their play, and where they can perform in a variety of ways including dance or drama.

Ideas and Requirements:

- Area to be mainly for children in Years 2, 3 and 4 and resources made age appropriate for them.
- Storage included for all resources that can be independently accessed by the children.

★ Area 3: Wildflower Meadow Gathering Space

Ambition: Develop a structure that enables groups to gather to listen, talk, learn and spend time together in all weathers throughout the year.

Ideas and Requirements:

- Explore ideas around the design and construction of a natural structure that would enable groups eg—30no children to gather together.
- Space to be self contained, waterproof, secure and with the ability to also contain storage for outside teaching and learning to be encouraged within the wider area facilitated by this space alongside.
- Area also able to be used for summer and winter celebrations as an area where topics can be celebrated.

Area 4: Sensory Garden

Ambition— Development of a space that embraces all the senses and creates and are for pupils and staff that is calming and relaxing.

Ideas and Requirements:

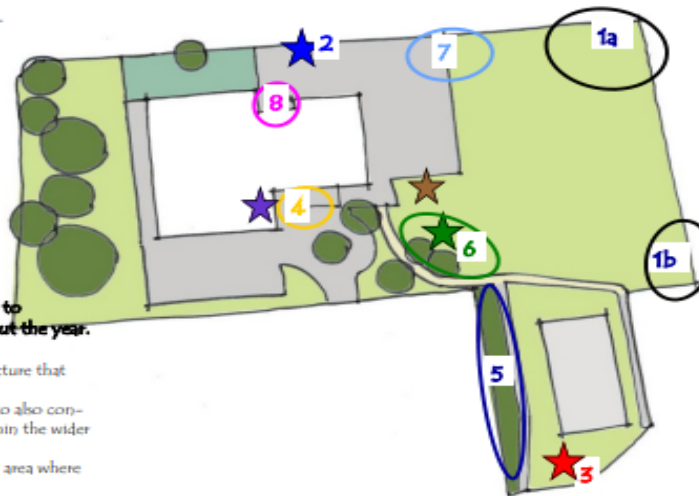
- Area to be used for quiet activities such as talking with friends or colleagues, for sitting with a book, or listening to birdsong and to include the natural sound of running water.
- Water feature to be discussed further with all teaching and support staff to include a design of pebbles, planting, and natural materials.

Area 5: Nature and Nurture Space

Ambition: Redevelopment of the original garden area to take the well loved ethos of planting and growing to another level.

Ideas and Requirements:

- **Area 5a**—Creation of a new pond in an area where wildlife will be able to flourish and that pupils will be able to access in lesson time to support the curriculum. Pond design to be discussed further with contacts from the adjacent Nature Discovery Centre. Area to have appropriate fencing around however with additional space alongside for pupils to work and use the entire space in smaller groups.
- Planting and Growing to still take place within the area with planting beds actively promoted to be used by all year groups.
- Growing, nurturing and harvesting together to also be celebrated together with collaborative time spent around a long table that encourages groups to be together. Activities can vary from learning, to researching and planting, to preparing and cooking, and to finally eating together what has been harvested. A place to share..... experience and stories and time!



NOTES

★ **Mural**—Involvement of pupils to help celebrate the school through visual representation, and make all those who visit feel immediately welcome.

★ **Topsy Area**—Larger area for Topsy the school tortoise to have to roam freely, but to also be able to be seen and loved by pupils across all year groups within the school.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- A commitment to the creation of green spaces for outdoor teaching and learning.
- A place where the journey of the school is shown, the new Partnership is enjoyed, and the combination of the schools celebrated.
- Where Respect and Responsibility towards the wider environment is learnt by all ages.
- Creation of the grounds into being an ambitious learning environment that supports an ambitious curriculum teaching resilience and independence to all.

★ Area 6: Loose Material Play

Ambition: An area where children can work together in groups across the ages to develop their STEM learning and team building skills.

Ideas and Requirements:

- Research "Loose Material Play" further using the Play Scotland document provided. Extend the learning to the wider school community to then help create a wide variety of suitable resources to enable play to be supported.
- Important to include climbing posts to enable materials to be attached accordingly and storage.

Area 7: Amphitheatre

Ambition: An area of shaded seating where classes can gather for teaching and learning, plus a multi purpose space that allows pupils and staff to sit at break and lunchtimes to talk with friends

Ideas and Requirements:

- Explore the design of the area further to decide on shade required, materials to be used, size of the area required to enable larger groups to meet for celebrations during the year.

Area 8: "Club Area"

Ambition: Area to be used by all pupils to give them a bespoke area to spend time with friends at break and lunchtimes.

Ideas and Requirements:

- Area to be decorated with a Graffiti Wall worked on with the Year 6 pupils.
- A flexible space that changes yearly to reflect the Year 6 cohort of the time.
- Inclusion of seating to be decided on by pupils
- Inclusion of Table Tennis and Football tables.

Completed — September 2022