

What is the reason for the reduction in the size of the school?

Forecasted pupil numbers across Thatcham are settling back to a lower level than seen over the last 5-6 years. An agreement has been reached with Department of Education to reduce the pupil intake to 1FE (30 pupils per academic year). There is little new housing within the current local plan to have any significant positive impact on pupil numbers.

What happens if the school was to grow to a 2 Form Entry (2FE)?

As part of the project the outdoor area of the schools has been designed to meet the guidelines for space for a potential 2FE school site. This includes space for school building extensions to be constructed if required at a later date.

Why expand the Junior school South?

The junior school building is currently arranged with older pupils classrooms placed to the North side of the school building with a wheel spoke design layout surrounding the school hall, IT suite and library. Currently to the south there is a community room. To enable the least disruption to the pupils at the junior school, the school made a decision to move the infant pupils to the south of the current junior school building. This allows the junior pupils and classroom to have the least impact during the development. With the school's decision to locate the early years and reception pupils to the south of the school, there is a desire to locate the early years play area adjacent to the classrooms. This allows the pupils to maximise their time and access to the outdoor play area.

What will happen to the surplus land?

Any surplus land resulting from the project will consider all options for the site, giving regard to the objectives of the Council and the community, having first consulted key stakeholders and the approval of the council's Executive.

Why a flower meadow in the spare land?

Firstly, the spare land (existing infant school building and ancillary buildings) is land that has been put aside to allow the school to expand in the future if local pupil numbers in the Thatcham area increase. The land needs to be maintained by the school and by making it a flower meadow this allows for the school to use it as an additional learning environment and outdoor space which will support the school's environmental work.

Will the development work impact the Flood Alleviation Scheme?

The project at the Parsons Down Partnership of schools will have no impact on the flood alleviation scheme.

Will there be increased traffic due to out of hours use of the MUGA?

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is included in the project to allow the school more access to all weather play surfaces. There is the option to allow the school to provide an additional income for the partnership by allowing private groups to utilise the facility outside of school hours. If the partnership decides to use this option, parking will be provided in the current infant school car park to the North of the site. There is a potential traffic increase due to this community facility however this is

expected to be minimal due the facilities size and the reason that the MUGA will only be available during day light hours.

Once the Infants school is demolished a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) will be constructed. Will the MUGA have external lighting?

No, the MUGA has no external lights and will only be used during the day.

Will access to the school be impacted?

There are currently five ways to access the Parson Down Partnership site. A vehicle/pedestrian access from Herons Way to the current Junior school, a vehicle/pedestrian access from Paynesdown Road to the current Infant school site, a pedestrian access from Ashbourne Way, a pedestrian access from Derwent Road and a pedestrian access from lower way. The only access to be affected by the development is the pedestrian access from Ashbourne Way which will no longer be available.