

24th May 2021

Dear Parent

It is now a week since we launched our consultation on the future of Royds Hall through-school and Lily Park in particular. We know the announcement has caused upset. Inevitably, such a major change is difficult news to face.

We are keen to hear your views, particularly if you have good alternative suggestions or can identify ways we can help you. We have already picked up a number of common questions and this letter may help answer some of your concerns. We will also publish them on our website.

How will my child get to Luck Lane?

SHARE MAT will pay for a bus and there will be two members of staff on the bus, as well as the driver. Younger children will be cared for from the moment they arrive. The bus will leave from Lily Park and we will be guided by parents and staff about the best time for it to depart. There will also be a free breakfast club at Luck Lane, which will also be supervised.

What will happen to the land and buildings?

It is difficult to give a full answer to this because the decision is outside of our hands. However, the Secretary of State for Education decides what happens to the land and buildings. He will certainly prefer the land to be used for educational purposes and is likely to transfer ownership back to the local authority.

What about new housing and places in other schools?

We met with local authority officers on a number of occasions to look at the most likely scenarios. The number of children in the area has fallen from a peak a few years ago and there has not been an increase in births. New housing will not bring about a significant increase in children in the area. There are more than enough places in the system unless there is a sudden and huge increase in the birth rate.

How will we support children?

We will run a series of visits to Luck Lane to help children get used to their new site. In many cases, children will have the same teacher at the new site, which will also help them to settle. We will have plenty of staff at the new site to help pupils settle quickly. We appreciate that parents sometimes need to speak to a member of staff at the beginning or end of the day and will ensure that a senior member of staff is available.



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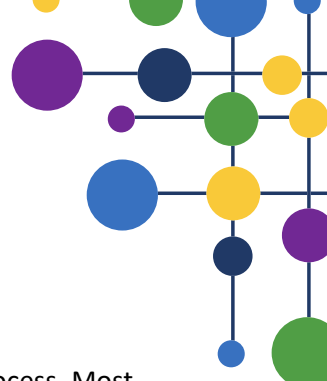


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What about staff welfare?

We are currently undertaking one-to-one meetings with staff, to support them through the process. Most Lily Park staff will transfer to the new site. Although we cannot rule out some job losses, we will always try to find another post in our trust where possible. We are working hard to reduce job losses to the absolute minimum. Staff can also access support from a counselling service and we are working with union representatives to help too.

Parent consultation meetings

Given that restrictions are still in place because of COVID, we need to organise the meetings carefully. We are, therefore, asking parents who would like to meet us to book a 20 minute slot. We will be able to host around 20 parents at any one time. The slots available are:

Lily Park		Luck Lane	
Tuesday, 8 th June	8.30am	Tuesday, 8 th June	4.30pm
	8.50am		4.50pm
	9.10am		5.10pm
Friday, 18 th June	3.00pm	Friday, 18 th June	8.30am
	3.20pm		8.50am
	3.40pm		9.10am

Please email leeanne.heaversedge@sharemat.co.uk or ring the school office on 01484 505228 with your meeting preference and we will try our very best to give you your preference. If we cannot fit everybody in, we will offer you another time.

Major changes are difficult but we are making these proposals because we want to give children at Lily Park the best education we can. Please be assured your child's needs are at the centre of what we want to do. It may help you to see what is available at Luck Lane. We will organise this as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please do keep telling us about your concerns. We are keen to understand how we can help you and make the changes as positive as possible.

Yours sincerely

M Lee

Michelle Lee
Director of Primary Education

Debbie Howard
Director of Operations

John McNally
CEO