



20th November 2017

Dear Parents,

I am taking the unusual step of writing to you all during the middle of term because I have an exciting update that I wanted to share as soon as possible.

I am pleased to inform you that in combination with full support from our Governors, I have taken the opportunity to significantly expand the original specification of the Science Refurbishment Project. Whilst this expanded brief has pushed the start back from September, it does now deliver a whole range of improvements such as new lab prep rooms, high quality ventilation systems and superior work stations.

The project will now ensure we have eight high spec labs to replace our six, relatively low tech and tired, existing ones. It is easy to imagine the benefits that this will bring to the experience of all pupils and staff; we will be able to offer cutting edge Science.

We have engaged a contractor to undertake the work and we expect them to be onsite towards the end of next week. Inevitably there will be some level of disruption around the school. As you would hope, the Health and Safety of all is our first priority. We plan to close and renovate two Science labs at a time so that by early summer we will have a fantastic set of facilities that allow our budding scientists to undertake a wide range of complex experiments. Be assured that Science practical lessons will still be taught during the build.

You may also recall that we were recently awarded a fantastic government grant of over half a million pounds towards this project which takes us a very long way forward, but inevitably these extra features come at a cost. I intend to write to you about this in some detail in the end of term newsletter and explain our plans, describe the project in full, and look ahead to how we see the school facilities being developed further.

In the meantime, I would like to close with a note of appreciation for the role that the Friends of St Mary's continue to play in our school life. Since 1999, their generous fundraising via monthly standing order has helped secure some amazing facilities that each and every pupil currently benefits from. No doubt this Science upgrade will find support from the Friends contribution. Many parents have already chosen to contribute; if you are considering doing so, I have attached the necessary forms. The Friends would be very grateful if you could send any completed forms to the Finance Office, via your child.

I do hope that this news is as pleasing to you as it is to us. Please look out for the end of term newsletter which will provide lots more details on this project, and life at St Mary's.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Celano
Headteacher

"The school's motto: 'achieving excellence for all' has become a reality at this outstanding school"
(Ofsted 2012)

