

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to share with you the class teaching arrangements for the next academic year. The teaching assistant arrangements are yet to be finalised, so this information is to follow, but your child will be told in school today which class they will be in next year and who their teacher will be. We are deliberately sharing this information earlier in the term than we have done in previous years to support the children's emotional wellbeing around transition, begin to build relationships ready for September and enable thorough information sharing between staff.

Existing class 2023-24	New class 2024-25	Class teacher
Apple	Sky	Miss Hanbury
Lime	Aqua	Mrs Jennings and Mrs O'Sullivan
Sky	Scarlet	Mrs Moore and Mrs Garcia
Aqua	Crimson	Ms D'Souza
Crimson	Amber	Mrs Wood
Scarlet	Vermillion	Mrs Hornblow
Amber	Gold	Mr Hartington
Vermillion	Saffron	Mrs Humbles
Gold	Forest	Mrs Poole
Saffron	Sage	Mrs Bland
Sage	Amethyst	Mrs Collins
Forest	Magenta	Mrs Aitbenmoussa

### Wraparound Care

As you know, we are taking over running the Breakfast and After School Club provision from September 2024. All the information, including a guide on how to book a place for your child and our terms and conditions, is on our website <https://albancityschool.org.uk/parents/before-after-school-care/>

Please note that your child's Wraparound Care account on Arbor must be in credit for the booking to be made. This is now visible on Arbor under Accounts.

If you would like to use Childcare vouchers, please let the office know before Monday so that the credit can be transferred onto your child's Arbor account to enable you to book the place.

Bookings can be made on Arbor by clicking on clubs, then Wraparound Care. We will open the bookings from **9am on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** until 1<sup>st</sup> July to **existing users** of ABC XYZ to ensure their children's places can continue next term, and to new Reception parents.

If you are **not** currently using the breakfast or after school club provision, but would like a space from September, please use this form to tell us. <https://forms.office.com/e/Ss3AsfCngF> Once the priority booking window has closed, we will allocate any available spaces in order of when the request was received and inform you if we are able to meet your request.

We do intend to offer ad-hoc bookings, but these will be subject to availability once the regular bookings have been confirmed. The booking form for ad-hoc will be on the website.

Obviously this is the first time we have managed the Wraparound Care directly, so there may be some teething issues as things become established. Please bear with us and thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Hutton in the school office.

### **Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 9am**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent survey about smartphones. There were 132 responses, with 89% in favour of a school policy to ban smartphones being brought to school. Of the 132 responses, 83% supported the introduction of this policy in September 2024. To move this forward, I have arranged a parent meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 9am in the theatre. Matt Tavener from Cunningham Hill School will be coming to share a presentation to support parents' understanding of the topic. Following this, we will make some decisions about our school's approach to smartphones and what this will look like from September. I encourage you to come along to this meeting to find out more information and be part of our discussions, as to make any sustainable changes we need to work together as a school community.

### **Playground development**

I am excited to share with you a proposal to develop our playground space. The playground is a very busy area of our school that is used constantly throughout the day, and needs to be flexible to accommodate a variety of uses and the needs of all the children. There needs to be space to run around, enjoy active playtimes, teach PE lessons and play sport in after school clubs, but also quieter zones for children who prefer a calmer environment to chat to their friends, sit and read, or just have some quiet time to themselves. The current playground has a tarmaced sports court, no green space, the climbing equipment takes up a lot of space but in reality isn't used that much, there isn't much for the children to do (other than the climbing equipment), and there isn't really a quieter zone for those children who need it so it can be a very noisy and busy environment.

From obtaining some designs and quotes from various companies, we have worked with the company we have chosen to come up with an initial design, but would welcome your input and thoughts. I will also be asking the children for their input, because it is their playground and I want it to be a fun, attractive and enjoyable space for them for many years to come that will add value to their primary school experience. I have reproduced some images below which I hope are large enough for you to get a good idea of the elements of the proposed design. If you would like to make any comments, please use this form. <https://forms.gle/GFcCq1RgRLdKhUyRA>

The PTA has kindly agreed to support the cost of the new playground through their fundraising initiatives, with the aim of raising £40,000 over the next 2 years to match the investment from the school's own budget. We will also set up a donations page and install and thank you board when the project is complete. The work can be done in phases as the money is raised, so phase 1 is the multi-use games area or MUGA that will replace the existing netball court area. This could be installed as soon as October half - term, so please look out for further communications in the coming weeks.

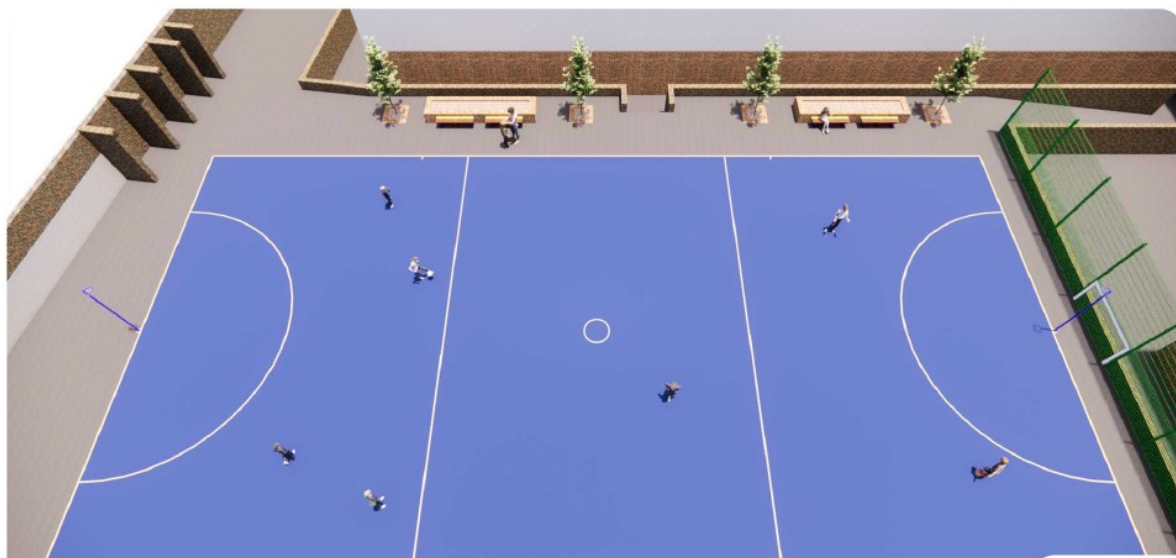
I hope you feel as excited as I do about this proposal because I believe that it will really enhance the children's health, wellbeing and enjoyment of their time in school, and add to the already fantastic provision we can offer at ACS.

Yours sincerely,

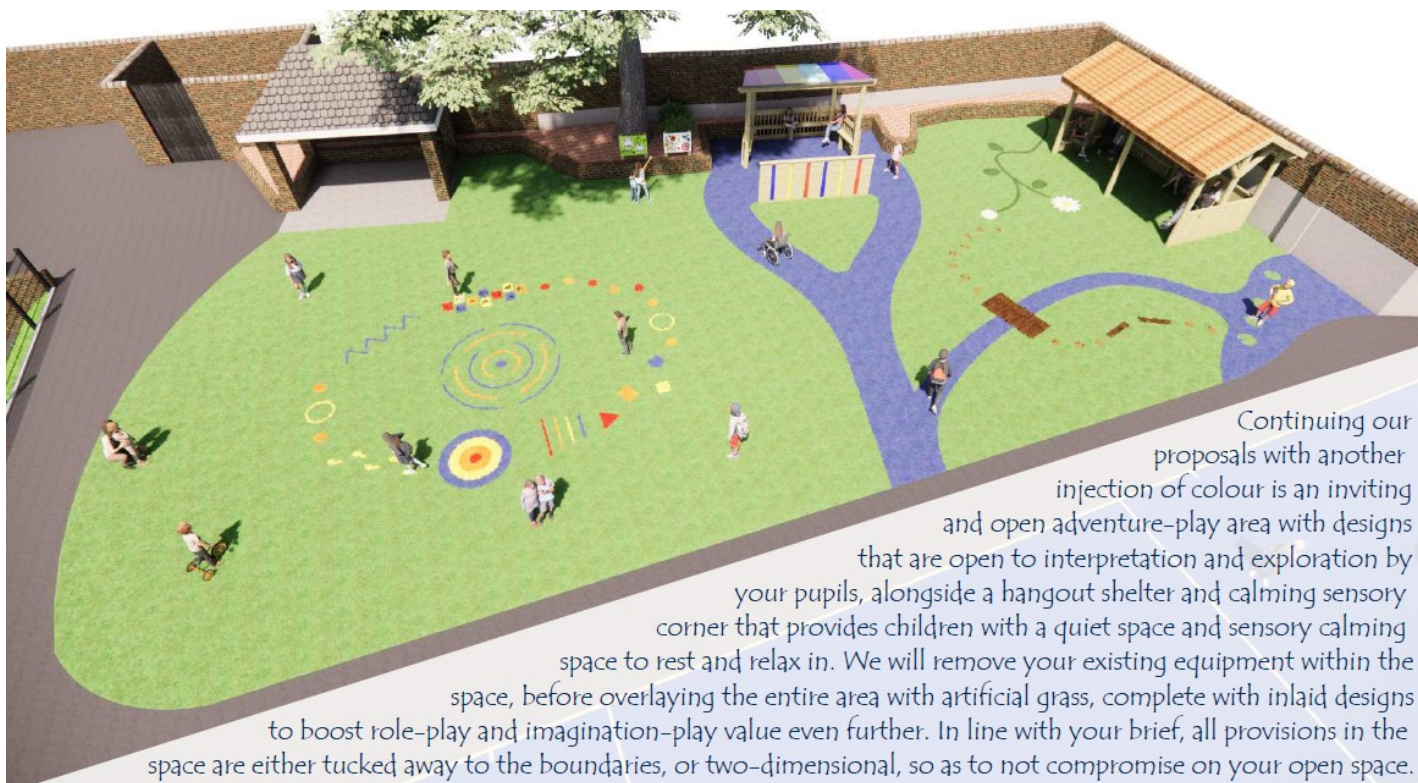
Mrs Stray



## Adventure Play Equipment



In line with your brief we have made sure to include a space for penalty shootouts against your green metal fence. We will mount posts and a crossbar in highly durable HDPE to the fence, this is slightly offset from the pitch as to allow for the socketed netball posts, that can be removed when not in use.



Continuing our proposals with another injection of colour is an inviting and open adventure-play area with designs that are open to interpretation and exploration by your pupils, alongside a hangout shelter and calming sensory corner that provides children with a quiet space and sensory calming space to rest and relax in. We will remove your existing equipment within the space, before overlaying the entire area with artificial grass, complete with inlaid designs to boost role-play and imagination-play value even further. In line with your brief, all provisions in the space are either tucked away to the boundaries, or two-dimensional, so as to not compromise on your open space.

In line with your brief we have included a quieter, calmer, sensory corner, for children who want a more relaxed corner to play alone and in small groups away from the main play area. The area is defined by a sensory wall that will catch the light on sunny days, and provide an attractive barrier to the space.

The area also features a shelter with seating to provide more seating in your grounds, for friends to sit and socialise and hang out together.



The shelter has a rainbow roof to complement the rainbow wall, which creates a sensory effect when it cast coloured shade through the space. The area is defined with a relaxed blue surface artificial grass surface underfoot.

We have also include a pair of sensory panels that feature interactive moving parts that provide a range of touch, sight and sound feedback for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy. More information and examples feature overleaf.

Below you can see an example of our rainbow shelter and wall, along with a great example of the polycarbonate sheets when they catch the sun and really brighten up the area.



Flower-heads spin round and contain ball-bearings to create a calming 'whooshing' noise when spun around. This activity also offers a repetitive motion which can provide pupils with a re-assuring and self-regulating motion to enjoy



A sensory play panel features a variety of moving and spinning parts to stimulate touch, sight and sound senses.



As per your request we have moved the hangout shelter to the main area. This shelter sits off in one corner as to not disrupt the open play space that is complete with various inlaid designs. These include; flowers, stepping-stones, logs and lily pads, each of which add sparks for the imagination and challenges balance and co-ordination further.

A shelter provides ample room for groups of friends to hang out, with a waterproof roof and benches to the rear and sides providing seating for approx. 20 pupils. The shelter can also double as an outdoor classroom during lesson time, providing a durable and functional addition to your grounds.



A large part of your brief was to provide seating areas around your grounds, for friends to simply sit and socialise together. As part of our quote we have provided a price for 1.5m-long colourful recycled plastic benches in rainbow colours, with four provisioned initially, with the ability to add more as needed.

