

# Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School

Bader Way  
Whiteley  
Fareham  
PO15 7JH

Tel: 01489 660750  
Email [adminoffice@cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk)  
Mr T Clarke Headteacher



*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope  
Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*

17 May 2021

## Relocation and New Cornerstone

Dear Parents / Carers

We are excited and very much looking forward to welcoming the children and yourselves as families to our new Cornerstone building next term. I am writing to you to explain the process of our **relocation** from our current temporary site on Bader Way to our new permanent home on Bluebell Way during the summer of 2021. I will also share with you our **plans** for how we will work as a school and grow as a community over the coming years.

### Relocation

As I am sure you can imagine, packing up and relocating a whole school is not a quick and simple process. The school's Leadership Team and governors have spent time discussing and planning this process with our colleagues from the Hampshire Education Team. On Monday the 12th of July a large number of packing crates will be delivered to our current site. Therefore, during the last two weeks of this term staff will be spending sometime organising and packing up resources.

Over the period of the summer holiday there are a range of tasks that need to be completed. These include: relocation and setting up of all current furniture and resources; delivery and setting up of new furniture and resources; installation of new IT and phone systems; reviewing and updating of health and safety policies and risk assessments; addressing snagging issues and ensuring that classrooms and the whole school site are prepared and safe for the children's return on Tuesday the 7th of September. We will be discussing with the children and staff, ideas to celebrate and commemorate our first days in our new home.

### Future plans

Currently we have just under 200 children at Cornerstone in seven classes. It has always been the plan of both the School and the Hampshire Education Team that we will grow in our new building to serve 630 children in 21 classes. Although it is difficult to predict it is expected that this full growth is likely to take 5-8 years. Growing as a school community on our current site since 2013 has been reasonably straight forward as we have been joined by a new Year R class each year. It has been a very successful experience due to the positive and inclusive way new children, families and staff have been welcomed into the Cornerstone community.

"The school's values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope thread through the everyday life of the school. Pupils enjoy school life and their learning at Cornerstone. Teamwork permeates through the school, with staff motivated to 'Growing an Inspirational Learning Community.'" (Ofsted 2019)



Our aim will always be to continue this positive and inclusive process, as we continue to serve the collective needs of local families over the coming years. This next period of growth at Cornerstone will not be restricted just to new Year R classes joining each September, but we aim to be able to offer places in all year groups to cater for the growing Whiteley community.

Therefore, new classes may open in any of the year groups at the start of each year. This will be undertaken after full discussion and with agreement between the Hampshire Education Team and the School's Governing Body. However, it is important for families to be aware that even if the Governing Body wants to open new classes, these can only be opened when there is a final decision and funding from Hampshire. We aim to confirm the plan for each year with everyone in the Cornerstone community prior to the summer holidays, however Hampshire are unable to guarantee that they won't be asking us to open new classes during the school year at times.

In order to open a new class with additional staff and resources, Hampshire's Education Team will assess the feasibility of approving the funding required. As new schools grow, it is expected that classes will need to be organised in mixed age groups to allow for steady growth across all of the age groups. This has been discussed at length and planned in detail by the Schools Leadership Team in consultation with the Governing Body and Hampshire's Education Advisors. The appointment of our four Phase Leaders (Mrs Southall, Miss Pretty, Mr Penfold and Miss Goddard) is a key part of this planning.

Our aim will be for Year R to always have a single age classes: but there will be school years when all the children in Years 1 and 2; Years 3 and 4; and Years 5 and 6 will be organised into mixed age group classes within those pairs of year groups. This will provide many benefits for children and staff. These mixed age group classes are likely to start with smaller numbers of children in each class to provide space for new children in the future. As a school we will take time to think through and consider how best we can organise the children into these classes, taking into account our knowledge of the children and their friendships. For children they will have the benefit of learning, growing and playing with a wider group of children, rather than being with the same class of children for seven years. For staff it will enable more teamwork, greater coherence and links across the children's learning and the curriculum they experience, and utilising different skills and expertise to benefit the children in their classes and the schools as a whole.

I recognise that this will be a change from how Cornerstone has been organised until now. However, I would like to offer the reassurance that my previous roles have included Assistant Headteacher in a 500 pupil Junior School and Deputy Headteacher in a 630-pupil primary school. I and other members of staff, have much first-hand experience of the positives of large schools and the systems and structures required for them to be successful.

We can guarantee that our Values of, "Building our community on Love, Forgiveness and Hope" will remain central to all that we do and how we do it. Along with our Vision of "Growing an Inspirational Learning Community", we firmly believe that Cornerstone will continue to be a happy, safe and positive community which enables all of the children to flourish and be cared for.

"The school's values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope thread through the everyday life of the school. Pupils enjoy school life and their learning at Cornerstone. Teamwork permeates through the school, with staff motivated to 'Growing an Inspirational Learning Community.'" (Ofsted 2019)



If you wish to raise any comments or questions about either the relocation or the planned growth in our new building: please feel free to talk to me in person or to share your views using [this survey](#).

Yours sincerely,



Tim Clarke  
Headteacher

“The school’s values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope thread through the everyday life of the school. Pupils enjoy school life and their learning at Cornerstone. Teamwork permeates through the school, with staff motivated to ‘Growing an Inspirational Learning Community.’” (Ofsted 2019)

