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19th July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are really pleased that we finally are able to go ahead with our playground development, which is being funded by the school house project. Most of the playground changes will be completed during the summer holidays, however the final pieces of equipment are being installed during the first half of September. This area will be fenced off and children will not be allowed to enter. They will be able to watch the exciting final elements being installed.

Following consultations with children, staff and parents (coffee morning meeting), we were able to finalise a design with two playground development companies. This design incorporates many of the ideas that the children asked for. It includes: a series of creative climbing frames; a netball court; a new glass fishpond within a garden area; gymnastic equipment; a covered performance area; log play cabins; planters; tunnels and slides; seating and much more. We have also left some free spaces in which children can direct their own play.

The equipment has also been designed to help create imaginative play; increase upper body strength (which improves gross and fine motor skills); promote healthy living and deliver outdoor learning.

We will talk to the children about how to use the equipment safely and fairly. The flooring will be a mixture of artificial grass and wetpour rubber, which have safer impact surfaces beneath any climbing areas. Children will need to wear appropriate footwear on the larger climbing apparatus – this includes sensible school shoes or trainers.

For safety reasons, children will not be allowed to use the equipment before and after school. This includes pre-school children and toddlers. We appreciate your support with this.

We all look forward to a new year and a new playground. The design should be available to view on the Friars website very soon

Best wishes,

Joanna Wratten

Deputy Head

