



Friday 30th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As some of you may already be aware Chapelford Village Primary School, as an already popular and oversubscribed school, has been approached by Warrington Borough Council to provide an additional 120 temporary places to pupils at Key Stage 2 to meet the demand of in year admissions in West Warrington. The final decision for this project was only agreed by cabinet last week and we would like to take this opportunity to reassure our parents that we would not agree to this temporary increase in pupil numbers if we did not feel this would be a positive development for our school, our children and our community.

**Smaller class sizes:** In the last twelve months the school has received unprecedented demand for admissions, especially for places in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). As a result, year groups in Key Stage 2 are already significantly oversubscribed. This means class sizes have increased to well over 30 pupils to meet demand. We have also been required to attend an increased number of appeals for families desperate to attend our community primary school. This planned increase in classes at Chapelford means we can ensure our class sizes reduce, to continue to provide a highly personalised school experience for our children and support our older pupils to prepare, with increased independence, for their transition to secondary school.

**Building improvement:** The increase of one class, in each year group in Key Stage 2, means that some additional buildings will be required on the school site. Warrington Borough Council will fund this building work, which will enable us to further enhance our existing accommodation. It is intended that the capital investment will fund an additional eco, state of the art modular building to be located at the back of the existing Year 6 classrooms. This new, permanent modular building will become the Year 6 department. The building will comprise of four fully accessible, air-conditioned classrooms with integrated technology to support learning. An additional social and dining space for Year 6 pupils is also included in the design.

Please scan the QR code or click this [link](#) to see a plan of the proposed modular building for Year 6. This is currently a proposal and will be subject to change and planning approvals.





**Enhancement to school grounds:** As part of the growth project Chapelford will also benefit from an enhancement to the current school grounds, supported by Omega Multi-Academy Trust, to support the increased number of pupils in enhanced outdoor play and learning spaces. The plans for the development of the grounds will be shared soon.

**Classroom organisation:** The additional 120 places created by the implementation of the modular building will be allocated across Years 3,4,5 and 6 from September 2023. Years 3,4,5 and 6 will increase from 3 classes per year group to 4. For September 2023 this will require class reorganisation for the new academic year in these year groups. To support this process pupils and parents will be consulted, as a priority, about friendship preference for the new classes. This information will be taken into consideration to meet the best learning needs of children in these year groups. New classes and allocated class teachers will be shared with parents in the weeks ahead in line with the rest of the school.

**Additional staffing:** Staffing recruitment for the growth project has already been undertaken and the school has also increased its capacity at a school leadership level to support the temporary growth of the school. Pupils will, as always, be meeting their new class teachers and class peers before we finish for the summer holiday as part of our planned transition.

**Programme of works:** The works for the planned modular building will commence over the imminent summer holiday. It is estimated that this will be complete for the start of the second half of the Autumn Term 23 (November 2023). The temporary operational and accommodation plans are currently being devised. During the construction period we will be using existing space in school temporarily to ensure that Year 6 has effective learning provision from the start of the academic year. This will include the use of additional teaching staff to support learning in smaller groups in the main school building whilst the construction is taking place. Please be assured that pupils' learning will remain a priority throughout the process and we will be using our expertise and knowledge from previous growth builds to support this project.

To support effective communication through this process we are creating a page on the school website where updates and developments will be shared. This will also include frequently asked questions in relation to the building project and increased growth at Chapelford so that our school community is kept well informed throughout the process. Where possible we will also be involving Year 6 in the decision-making process to ensure that this new facility meets their needs.

As a school and trust, we see this as an exciting opportunity to open our vibrant and high-quality learning provision at Chapelford to more pupils within our community and enhance our current indoor and outdoor learning spaces. The addition of a separate Year 6 learning hub for our oldest pupils will enable us to have enhanced learning facilities that will promote independence that will support them effectively in their transition to high school.

Yours faithfully,

Christian Wilcocks  
Chief Executive Officer

Joanne Hewson  
Executive Head

Laura Tottie  
Head of School