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Wednesday 18th January 2023

Update on Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) project

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Pupils.

I am writing to update you on our very exciting MUGA project. As you are aware, we have been fundraising for some time, and in my last update I informed you that Godalming Town Council had very kindly awarded us a £60,000 grant towards the MUGA, under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding. In addition, we have raised £25,000 of funds to date via PTA fundraising and other donations.

However, following a review of project costs in Autumn 2022, the impact of inflation, coupled with the need to install a fence around the MUGA, we revised our projection of funding required to £150,000 (subject to receipt of tender prices). This left us with a significant proportion of funds still to source.

We wrote to Godalming Town Council to advise them of the increased costs, and they suggested that we prepare an updated bid for their consideration. In November 2022 we attended a committee meeting of the Town Council. At this meeting, we explained the rationale for the cost increases. The Town Council considered our updated bid and we are delighted to inform you that they agreed to fund the remaining shortfall on the project. Godalming Town Council have therefore increased their funding grant from £60,000 to £125,000.

We were absolutely delighted with this news, and we are pleased to inform you that it has been full steam ahead on the project since then. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr Andy Jeffry, Godalming Town Council clerk, who has been instrumental in supporting us and helping us succeed with this application.

This week we have submitted a full planning application to Waverley Borough Council for the MUGA, and we will be launching our tender process by the end of January to identify our preferred contractor to undertake the building works. We anticipate the MUGA build to commence before the end of this academic year, and will be trying our very best to complete it by the start of the 2023/24 academic year. This of course will depend on the availability of the chosen contractor.

We are very grateful for the support of Mr Matt Sherwood with regards the planning application, as well as our extremely dedicated school governors (Mr Matt Rooke and Mrs Sarah Speirs) throughout this process. We still have a long way to go to deliver the MUGA, but with the funding in place we are closer to realising our dream.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the project so far. We are so grateful for all contributions, whatever size or form. We still plan to allocate a proportion of future PTA fundraising towards the MUGA, whilst awaiting final pricing via the tender process.

We will of course keep you all updated as we continue our MUGA journey. If you have any questions in the meantime then do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Catchpole
(Headteacher)