



**NEIGHT HILL
HIMBLETON
DROITWICH
WORCS
WR9 7LE**

Telephone: 01905 391231
Website: www.himbleton.worcs.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER: Mrs. Gemma Martin

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

CHANGE OF AGE ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, Himbleton changed from First school status to Primary status in September 2021, meaning that we now cater for children up to Year 6, rather than children having to move on from us at the end of Year 4.

This year, as part of our transition, we have had Year 5 only, providing accommodation for this cohort by making internal changes to the existing building. This was always a temporary solution which would not suffice from September 2022 when we will have both Year 5 and Year 6 and more space will be needed.

As you will know from ongoing updates, the governing body has been working incredibly hard over the past two and a half years with school building professionals to secure a long-term, high quality accommodation solution that will serve the school now and into the future. Various options have been explored in line with our financial position at given points, including:

- Further internal works to create a classroom space of the regulatory size and the conversion of the existing barn/shelter on the playground to create a library;
- Conversion and extension of the existing barn/shelter to create a new classroom of the regulatory size;
- A purpose built new modular classroom of the regulatory size on the site of the existing barn/shelter;
- A purpose built brick new classroom of the regulatory size on the site of the existing barn/shelter.

We are delighted that we now have our final solution secured and are pleased that by September 2022 we will have a purpose built brick new classroom of the regulatory size on the site of the existing barn/shelter for our first Year 5/6 class. This new accommodation will provide lots of space, high quality facilities and will mean that the current Year 5 classroom will be available for Wrap Around Care, use at lunchtime and group teaching during the school day.

Reaching this solution has not been easy, with many factors to consider, including: providing accommodation that provides the best environment for high quality teaching and learning, cost effectiveness (the school is having to fund this project completely with no funding available from the Local Authority) and the longevity of any given solution. However, we are confident that this is the best option for the school as we move forward.

The existing barn/shelter holds a special place in all of our hearts as it has been a part of the school for so many years. In an ideal world we would have loved to keep it as part of our new accommodation solution. However, work to convert/extend it would unfortunately not prove to be financially feasible due to the nature of its construction and current condition. We are keen to preserve its memory as part of the new build and if you have any photographs (old or new) of this part of the school we would be keen to take a copy to include in a montage.

We have a pre-start meeting with the project management company and the builders next week and, following this, we will update you with more details.

Kind regards,

Gemma Martin (Headteacher)

Claire Johnston (Chair of Governors)