



Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School

Brixham Road, Reading RG2 7RB

Telephone: 0118 937 5566

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Headteacher: Mr Nathan Butler-Broad

Website: www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk

Friday 12th June 2026

Update on SEND Building Project – including changes to the Nursery and additional INSET days

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share an important update specifically about our Nursery provision following confirmation of the plan of works for the SEND secondary school building project, which will begin on our site this summer.

As I am sure you are already aware, the Local Authority will be developing a new SEND secondary provision on the school grounds to increase specialist places for children and young people within our community. While we recognise the importance of this development for the children of Reading, the scale of the project means that changes to our Nursery accommodation and organisation are necessary from September.

Nursery Relocation

Sadly, the current Nursery building sits within the footprint required for the new construction. As a result, from September, our Nursery will relocate to the modular building (the current Hive space) within the main school site. This space will be redeveloped over the summer to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Staff are already planning carefully to ensure the new environment remains welcoming, well-resourced, and developmentally appropriate for our youngest children. Maintaining a nurturing, play-based early years experience remains our absolute priority.

Changes to Nursery Places

Due to the reduced size of the new accommodation:

- Nursery will operate with reduced pupil numbers.
- Regrettably, we will only be able to offer two-year-old provision to existing children classed as rising three-year-olds for one more term. After this, the provision will close.

We fully recognise how valuable this provision has been for families and understand that this news may be disappointing. This decision has not been taken lightly and comes as a direction from Reading Borough Council; it is a direct consequence of the space required to deliver the new specialist secondary provision.



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Additional Changes

In addition to the outlined changes to the Nursery, we will also be handing over accommodation elsewhere in the school. This includes our sensory room, art room, some outdoor areas, and intervention spaces. While these changes are significant, our accommodation will still exceed recommended guidelines as we gradually reduce to a two-form entry school.

This shift reflects a wider need in the education system to rebalance, as schools across the country reduce the numbers on roll and develop additional specialist SEND provision.

More positively, we will also see improvements to the fabric of the building, including redecoration of the hall, new carpets, and refurbished toilets. This work will begin in July and is expected to be completed by April 2027, in time for the new SEND school to open in September 2027.

Exceptional INSET Days

To implement these changes before the start of the new term, we need a significant amount of reorganisation. This effectively involves moving almost every class and emptying every space being handed over to the new SEND school.

As a result, the Director of Education for Reading has granted the following exceptional INSET days:

- **Tuesday 21st July**
- **Wednesday 22nd July**
- **Thursday 3rd September**
- **Friday 4th September**

This means the academic year will end on **Monday 20th July**, and the new academic year will begin on **Monday 7th September**.

Support for Families

We are committed to supporting families through this transition. This will include:

- Families currently accessing two-year-old places, or planning to do so, will be contacted individually to discuss next steps and to help signpost alternative local provision where needed.
- Children already attending Nursery will continue to be supported by familiar staff, routines, and learning approaches to ensure continuity and security.



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- A normal transition programme so all children end the year prepared and ready for September.

Looking Ahead

Although these changes will require adjustment, the Nursery will remain an important and valued part of our school community. The relocation also provides an opportunity to refresh our learning spaces and continue developing high-quality early education within a strong, inclusive school environment.

We will share further practical information about classroom arrangements, drop-off and collection routines, and transition arrangements before the end of term.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's place, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or speak directly with the Nursery team.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we manage these necessary changes together.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Butler-Broad
Headteacher
Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School