

22 February 2016

Dear Parents



We wrote to you in February last year with the news that we had agreed in principle to purchase a small piece of land next to the school with a view of turning this into a playing field.

This process was started in 2013, when it was announced that all primary schools would receive a sum of money to invest in PE. There were many strings attached to this money as it was meant to ensure a lasting legacy of sports education in schools- hence the title Olympic Legacy Funding. I hope you will agree that the purchase of a school sports field is a great use of this funding that will provide a lasting legacy for Shirwell pupils well into the future. However there are lots of barriers in place to a school buying a piece of land and it has taken a lot of hard work from our governors to ensure that this has taken place. We finally took possession of the land in July 2015. We had intended for it to be in use for the start of the school term in September but have had issues with the fencing. We have now secured the area and it is ready to use.

Since the fence was finally put in place we have had an uncommon amount of rain, even for Shirwell. A trip onto the land will quickly reveal that the field is in fact a bog. We clearly need drainage and we would like to level the area.



The governors have been exploring other funding avenues to achieve these aims. We can reveal that we have been **awarded a grant by the National Lottery of £10 000**. This will go towards the groundwork that will turn our bog into a usable playing field.

This will be the first part of a longer term strategy. While levelling and drainage will help make the field usable we are exploring the idea of putting an artificial surface onto the field so it can be used all year round and for a variety of different sports. While this will not be cheap, the governors will continue to explore funding opportunities from different sources. The PTFA have also committed their fundraising activities (such as the Christmas Fair) towards this project. The PTFA would welcome any fundraising ideas that you might have to help this project. Please talk to Lorna Jones, Jane Evans or Mr Allen for more information about the PTFA.



As soon as the weather becomes drier we will be using the field for sports and playtimes. We intend that by next September we will have developed the land so it is much more useable all year round. We hope you find this information useful in regards of the work done and the work still to be done on this project.

Yours sincerely

The School Governing Body:

Joanna Gay- Chair of Governors Graham Flack-Vice Chair of Governors

Simon Allen-Headteacher

Jane Evans-Parent Governor

Monica Roberts-Co-opted Governor

Russell White-Co-opted Governor

Abby Eames-Staff Governor

Sally Jones-Parent Governor

Lorna Jones-Parent Governor