

6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to inform you that the development of our new school building is to begin soon. These works are part of the wider improvements to the area of White City between Australia Road, South Africa Road and Dorando Close under plans that have been known as “EdCity”.

Our school will continue to be open to pupils as normal throughout this period and we are scheduled to move into our new building and facilities in September 2023. Pupils will move straight from the existing building into their brand-new classrooms, so there will be no disruption to their education.

We are very excited about the improvements this development will bring. It will provide:

- a new, high-quality school building and facilities
- access to a rooftop sports pitch, a four-court sports hall, a drama studio and a climbing wall
- a running track around the perimeter of the school’s playground; and
- our very own edible garden.

This project is a key part of our school’s long-term plan to provide the best education possible for our pupils. We want to ensure every child has access to the very best facilities and teaching at Ark Swift to support their learning and development - and to become a confident, independent, and enthusiastic learner, with a strong determination to succeed.

The wider plans for the area – jointly led by the Ark education charity and Hammersmith & Fulham council - will also bring significant long-term benefits to our local neighbourhood. As part of the £150m development, there will also be a new building for the nursery, a Youth Zone, adult education facilities, 132 affordable homes and new office space.

Whilst we have timed the start on site to minimise disruption to the school, part of our playground will be out of bounds to enable a safe working zone to be set up. Works are scheduled to commence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July and for the last two weeks of term, the Dorando Close gate will be out of use. This entrance/exit will be reinstated for the start of the new term in September. We will retain use of our sports pitch until the end of term via a safe routeway. As children are continuing to be organised in bubbles due to Covid restrictions, the impact of reduced outdoor space will be minimised. We will, however, ask for your support in maintaining social distancing at drop-off and pick-up and ensuring you adhere to year group beginning and end of day timings.

We are keen to talk to you further about our plans for the school, as well as the wider changes that this development will bring to the local neighbourhood. So, we are inviting you to attend a special meeting for all parents at the school which will be held early next term: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9:00am and repeated again at 5:00pm. You will also be able to ask questions and raise any concerns you may have.

We are delighted that the plans will finally commence and look forward to sharing more information with you about this exciting development for our school.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Upfield  
Principal