

30 January 2017

Dear Parents

### Proposed new school hall

As you will already know, since September 2015 we have been working with Kent County Council to provide an appropriately sized school hall for our children at Ryarth.

Since we last wrote to you, the design and planning process has been continuing for a new hall in the courtyard area, adjacent to our main school corridor and kitchen. However, in the last week we have heard from KCC that the planning application for this project is being withdrawn. This is largely due to an Environment Agency condition requiring the floor levels of the new building to be raised to allow extra clearance for flood waters. The necessity for ramps to connect the present school building with a higher new hall in this location makes it impossible to proceed with the current design.

Despite several months of planning, this condition was only communicated by the Environment Agency in December 2016. We are sure you will share our frustration that while the design and planning process is proving so time consuming, our children are having to cope with a school hall of just 80m<sup>2</sup>, which is just over half the 150m<sup>2</sup> minimum recommended size.

We are now 'back to the drawing board' and working with KCC Property on new plans. Once again, the provision of a new hall will need to meet the needs of our children, connect well to our existing building, be sympathetic to our rural village setting and take into consideration the opinions of other stakeholders.

We will of course keep you informed of progress and developments in due course. In the meantime, we would welcome your comments or opinions on the best way to proceed, so please feel free to contact us with your thoughts.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Austin  
Headteacher  
[headteacher@ryarth.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@ryarth.kent.sch.uk)

Rachel Rowland  
Chair of Governors  
[chairofgovernors@ryarth.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@ryarth.kent.sch.uk)