

COSSINGTON SCHOOL NEWS



Somerset County Council have recently decided to utilise the old Cossington Primary School for the expansion of The Bridge School, Sedgemoor – an organisation which provides specialist education from a number of sites in and around Bridgwater, Burnham and Cheddar.

The Bridge School is a pupil referral unit – with the Cossington site planned to accommodate its administration staff - along with a small group of younger primary aged children and a small group of secondary age pupils whose medical needs prevent them temporarily accessing their normal mainstream school.

Members of Cossington Parish Council met with the Headmaster of The Bridge School, Nigel Shipton, and Phil Curd of Somerset County Council on Mon 21st March and, as a result, have prepared a list of typical questions and answers below.

From the discussions held, the continuation of the site as an educational establishment doing some very worthwhile work along with the preservation of the historic buildings and grounds is seen as a positive move.

An open event will be scheduled before the school's planned reopening in September where residents will have the opportunity to find out more and ask questions.

Typical Questions

Q. Will there be any change to the school's external appearance?

A. There will be no change to the external appearance of the buildings although some internal modifications will be necessary. The existing car parking area is planned to be extended into the playground area to the rear to create additional parking – with the fence being moved back to accommodate this.

No other major changes are intended for the grounds. The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Q. Who will be at the school?

A. Around 10-15 admin staff and teachers (including those involved in distance learning). The Headmaster (Nigel Shipton) and two assistant heads will be based at the school.

Pupil attendance involves around 6 secondary-aged pupils with special medical needs and 4 primary-aged pupils with specific learning needs

Due to the nature of the school's activities, there will be small variations in pupil and staff numbers on site at any time.

Pupils will generally be taught within the school grounds – although there may be some occasional use of the Playing Field for certain outdoor activities agreed with the Parish Council.

Q. Can my child attend the school?

A. Admission to the school is by referral through the Somerset County educational service only

Q. Will we get cars parked around the school during the day?

A. It is planned to accommodate all car parking on-site – although alternative provisions are being sought for occasional overspill car parking for a small number of vehicles.

Drop-offs and pick-ups will generally be via school vehicles and taxis.

Q. What are the hours of operation?

A. General open hours are around 9 am to 4 pm during normal school term times – with some admin staff working through the holiday periods. No “out of hours” activities are anticipated

Q. What happens next?

A. The school aims to be up and running in September / October 2016 – with the construction work mentioned above being carried out throughout the late Spring and Summer.

The Bridge School plans have an open session in the coming months arranged in conjunction with Cossington Parish Council where residents will have the opportunity to find out more and ask questions.

Q. Where can I find out more about The Bridge School in the meantime?

A. Go to their website at <https://slp5.somerset.org.uk/webs/bss/SitePages/Home.aspx> . This also contains a link to their latest Ofsted report.

If you have any specific questions, then please direct them to the Parish Council and we will forward them on if we cannot answer them ourselves.



Prepared by Cossington Parish Council