

Improved playtimes and our Marvelous MUGA!



After a year of relentless **fund raising** from the PSA and a top up from the school's Sports Premium and capital funding, we were delighted at the start of this term to be able to get the ball rolling on the installation of the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). Work got underway promptly and the children were delighted to watch the men and diggers in action!

"I like it because the lines stay on for football"

In addition to the MUGA itself, new **pathways** have been created leading up to and alongside the MUGA to allow for ease of access and to reduce the amount of mud getting onto the surface of the pitch.

"I love the MUGA because I can play football and basketball at lunchtime"

"It definitely makes people happy"



The pathways have the added benefit of meaning that the children can walk all the way around the field and the Junior children no longer have to walk in front of the Infant classrooms or through the Year 1 outdoor area on their way back from play – much less distracting!

All the children can use the MUGA for playtimes and lunchtimes, currently on a rotational basis, and of course it is being used every day for PE lessons. One child in Year 5 commented that they *"particularly like that the MUGA is flat, not tilted, so the balls don't run away!"* Teachers are also very happy that they have a dedicated and contained space for sports teaching.

The MUGA comes with two built in goals as well as space to store netball and basketball hoops.



We have also been collaborating with **School Health UK**, an organisation that works with schools to improve the lunchtime experience. As part of their work with the school they are helping us to provide a diverse, stimulating and well-varied outdoor area. The MUGA is a big step towards meeting this goal.

Now that we are fully two-form entry we have 432 children who all need space to run and play and last term we saw an increase in the numbers of children falling and hurting themselves, or indeed “falling out” over lunchtime. The children were asked to complete a **playground survey** in the autumn term and since then the School Council have been working with Mrs Marsden to help decide what games and equipment the children would like to have outside. It was also an opportunity for them to tell us what else could be improved.

One of the suggestions from our School Health UK consultant was to “**zone**” the different areas outside. Acting on this advice we have allocated the playground next to the junior block as a space for quieter games, reading, drawing, skipping etc. Lots of our children told us they wanted space to sit and chat without being run into or having balls flying overhead.

The school has invested in some specialist **sports coaching** so that every lunchtime two sports coaches from SCL are on the MUGA running organised games such as basketball, netball and football as well as practising key skills with the children.

The “top” playground is a more active zone where children can climb or play with equipment such as scoops and balls.



The children told us they wanted to catch bugs and dig with sticks at playtime so we have now cleared away the brambles and undergrowth from the “**wild**” area with the intention of also having this space open for the children to play in every day.

Once the weather starts getting warmer we will also be able to use the field again, thus taking advantage of every bit of space.

We would love for you to come and see the new MUGA and will be having an open afternoon on **Wednesday 6th February** at pick up time. Please remember not to wear high heeled shoes or any spiked sporting shoes which will damage the surface of the MUGA.

What next?

Mrs Marsden and I recently completed an **Outdoor Leader of Learning** course and we would love to keep going with our improvement to the outside spaces and as such are asking the PSA to get behind our plans to develop the “wild” area, the playground and the unused spaces around the school.

We would love...

Some outdoor **picnic benches** to replace the very tatty old ones.



A **reading shed**.



Some outdoor **bean bags**.



Some outdoor **storage**.

- ◆ To improve our very shabby looking **Infant library** including putting an external door through to the grassed area outside.



- ◆ To develop this grassed area into a **sensory garden**.

Do you, or anyone you know have experience in **designing** garden spaces? If so, we would love to hear from you!

