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To: Parents Carers and Guardians of children attending Little Beacons Pre-School;
Parents Carers and Guardians of children attending South Tawton Primary School;
South Tawton Parish Council
Neighbours of South Tawton Primary School
Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dear Stakeholder,

Proposal to build a 30 place nursery unit for Little Beacons at South Tawton Primary School

We are writing to let you know that we are in the process of preparing a planning application for the construction of a nursery unit within the grounds of our primary school. Before submitting our application, we would like to invite you to a drop-in session at the school to explain our proposal in more detail and share our plans with you.

We have enclosed a brief document explaining the rationale for this proposal, but if you have further questions, there will be an opportunity for you to ask these at the drop-in session.

The drop in session for stakeholders has been arranged on:
30th September from 3:45 – 6:00pm
South Tawton Primary School Hall

Visitors and interested parties can drop in at any point during the session to view the plans and to ask questions.

The document is also available to view on line at
<https://www.southtawton.co.uk/school-news/little-beacons-stakeholder-consultation>

We look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Marvin and Shirley Culverhouse

Principal and EYFS Lead

Background

At South Tawton Primary School we follow the **Early Years Foundations Stage Statutory Framework**, which sets learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years i.e from preschool to the end of Year R. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. The EYFS seeks to provide quality and consistency in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.

It is this focus on quality and consistency throughout the foundations stage and culminating in Year R that has made us rethink the provision we are able to offer. For many years, Little Beacons have been based at the Victory Hall in South Zeal and we have been very grateful for the use of this facility. However, we are conscious that it is a very different setting to the school itself and the move from preschool to Reception class is still a big step. We are now looking to improve the provision by building a nursery within the school grounds. This will enable our preschool children to see and feel part of the bigger school and allow them to fully integrate into the school environment.

In addition, the move will enable us to address some of the safeguarding concerns we have had to work around in the current setting. The EYFS Statutory Framework has the following ethos:

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right.'

Safeguarding in Little Beacons is obviously a priority for us and, in our setting, we aim to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Having the nursery on the school site will enable us to better address the following provisions from the framework:

- 3.56. Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and must have an emergency evacuation procedure – Emergency evacuation from the proposed building will be to an assembly point within the school grounds, ensuring children are not exposed to additional risks at a critical time.
- 3.59. Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis (unless circumstances make this inappropriate, for example unsafe weather conditions) - The proposed building will have an adjoining outside area enabling the outdoor setting to mirror the learning opportunities of the indoor setting and affording preschool staff the opportunity to make spontaneous decisions that might otherwise require pre-planning and organisation.

- 3.61. Providers must ensure there is an adequate number of toilets and hand basins available ... [and] there should usually be separate toilet facilities for adults. Providers must ensure there are suitable hygienic changing facilities for changing any children who are in nappies - Having a purpose-built provision which is dedicated to nursery use allows us to design the facilities around this requirement.
- 3.63. Providers must ... ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised – Again, a purpose-built provision within the school grounds enables us to ensure the right sort of security with controls at the entrance to the gated playground as well as the building itself.

Vision

At South Tawton Primary School, we make the most of our beautiful surroundings to explore and learn. From our school field, playgrounds, garden, forest area and pond, children are outside enjoying the environment around them. In bringing the preschool into this environment, our vision is that children will learn from an early age that they are part of one big South Tawton family; playing together, helping each other and sharing experiences across age groups. Preschool children will be able to watch and learn from the older children and, in many cases, delight in seeing their siblings playing and learning in the same environment. We hope that, through this joined up approach, our EYFS will spark children's imagination to become enquiring, motivated and thoughtful learners who are independent and self-regulated.

The Proposal

Whilst final drawings are still being prepared in readiness for the planning application, the proposal is to erect a building in the corner of the large playground next to the road. For those of you who remember that far back, this will be on the site of the old Y2 'temporary classroom'. Entry will be through the playground gate and into the preschool setting on the right. There will be a large open room as well as storage, toilets and a kitchen facility. A separate door will open from this room to the adjoining fenced outside area with its sink for messy play and hand-washing. From here, children will be able to see through or over the fence to the main playground and vice versa ensuring that they will always feel part of the school community. There will be more drawings available to view at the drop-in session.



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MEASUREMENTS FROM THIS DRAWING

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Scale: 1:1
 Date: 12/2022
 Project: May 07, 2022

Name: South Tawton Primary School, Devon, EX22 3JG
 Project: Proposed New Classroom
 Date: 20/22
 User: Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust


PIPER
 ARCHITECTURE

3D VISUALS
 Project No: 1019
 Drawing No: 01
 Revision: