



FOW BIG OUTDOOR PROJECT



It has been a very quiet year for the FOW, with no events or major fundraising activity. However, there has been a lot of effort behind the scenes, working along side the school and local fundraising partners, to shape and sign off funding for a fabulous new outdoor project for the benefit of all the children.

Installation starts next Monday 28th June '21. Here's a first look at what's in store...

Background.

Research indicates that physical activity is as important for academic achievement, retention and focus as it is for physical health and obesity prevention. Weston is keen to encourage children to be as active as possible at school and promote a love of physical activity that can stay with them into later life.

In addition, the recent pandemic has impacted children's physical and social skills development — curbing time spent both actively playing and playing with other children outside of their own family or 'bubble'. The school and FOW have worked alongside external providers on a project to address these issues. The result is an amazing £21,500 investment project that will provide a large outdoor interactive play structure (aimed mainly at children in KS1) and outdoor gym targeted at both upper KS1 and KS2 (though both installations will be accessible to all pupils). Details of these can be found overleaf.

THE BIG OUTDOOR PROJECT

Having got an idea of what the school wanted and a set of requirements agreed, appropriate suppliers were researched and initial proposals requested.

In total 15 suppliers were approached and evaluated; resulting in 6 being asked for proposals, initial quotes and high level design ideas.

Finally, 3 were put through a full procurement assessment with input from school staff and importantly the school's children, who were asked for their views, preferences and ideas.



Members of the School Council and Y6 School Ambassadors hard at work looking through design ideas and brochures from all shortlisted providers.



With so many great ideas on offer the children focused on how they might use each design and of course, which they most wanted to play on with their friends.

A clear winner emerged with all the children agreeing on the design that includes:

- an outside gym
- a low level climbing wall
- a large interactive play boat with it's own desert island climbing trees



HAVING FUN GETTING FIT



Getting fit physically, mentally and emotionally.

The benefits of physical activity on children are well understood. In addition, physical exercise & play helps children to concentrate better in lessons, improves their mood & mental wellbeing and even helps to improve sleep patterns. Weston's fabulous new outdoor gym area—encompassing gym equipment and low climbing wall, will be available for children to use in both structured PE lessons and also at every break-time. All equipment is specifically designed for little growing bodies with child sized dimensions and safety features. Everything has been carefully chosen to promote a sense of fun and challenge for children no matter of size or ability. There's a real buzz about the outdoor gym area from the children because whether it's called getting fit, working out or playing — they don't care — they just know they are going to have fun.

New Outdoor Gym



KEY FEATURES

- Used for both PE lessons and general playtimes
- Allows children to enjoy a different type of sport experience and a new approach to PE lessons
- Develops balance, coordination, cardiovascular and muscle fitness
- Improves confidence and promotes social interaction, imaginative play and emotional wellbeing
- Equipment sized specifically for children up to 12 years old
- Safety mechanisms in place to cover moving parts
- Grass grow through safety to surround each item
- Endorsed by Ofsted
- Fully compliant with safety standards

Low Level Climbing Wall

- Innovative use of unused space for fun and challenge activities
- Wall holds added to existing brick work to develop balance, coordination and muscle fitness
- Improves confidence and promotes social interaction, imaginative play & emotional wellbeing



EXERCISE OR PLAY...KIDS CALL IT FUN.

⚓ EXCITING TIMES A-HOY !



Multi use play installation

Promoting physical challenge, imaginative play and social interaction Weston is very excited to show case our new outdoor adventure ark. Children can set sail on all manner of adventures with areas to climb, slide, crawl and hide in this amazing new outdoor play boat. The boat is nearly 9 meters in length and will have additional climbing palm trees with it to add to that desert island and high seas action. The ark will be sited on the grassed area next to the new annex adjacent to the KS1 playground. Understandably the children can't wait to climb aboard!

New Adventure Ark for Weston Primary Children ⚓



How it will look...



KEY FEATURES

- ⚓ Crawl through tunnel
- ⚓ Slide from back of boat
- ⚓ Mini Climbing Wall
- ⚓ 4 Dome 'Porthole' Windows,
- ⚓ Cubby Den under the back of the boat
- ⚓ Scramble net to the raised platform
- ⚓ Monkey Bars
- ⚓ Ladder & decked steps to a central 'crows nest'
- ⚓ 3 climbing trees with 'jug and leaf' hand and foot holds
- ⚓ Area to be installed with grass grow through safety matting
- ⚓ Fully compliant with safety standards

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- ⚓ Removal of floor decking—improves all weather use of item and affords wheel chair access
- ⚓ Open area, tunnel and den encourages creative play—not 'boat prescriptive' only
- ⚓ Free fall height of 1.2m reduces need for supervision by minimising accident risks
- ⚓ No requirement for safety flooring at this height, but upgrading safety installing grass grow through matting
- ⚓ School colours chosen for all 'detailing ie.' Blue/white/yellow (port holes, slide, tunnel, flag)

LET THE ADVENTURES SET SAIL...