

## **Holy Apostles Playground Development**

I have been working closely with ESP to put together a plan that I feel builds upon the work already completed in the HP Playground. We have come to a point where a decision has been taken to run the playground developments in three phases. I have detailed the three phases below so that you can start to build a picture of where this multi learning environment is going. I have insisted that we cover the physical, emotional and cognitive areas of development along with kinaesthetic challenges to keep all the children interested and active during the time they spend in the playground. After all on average children spend up to a quarter of their school day in the playground. Making best use of play times can help tackle the inactivity, boredom and poor behaviour that can intimidate children and affect lessons. Improving the play time environment can impact significantly on school life as a whole.

We are at a point where we are going to commit to the Phase 1 of the developments and work will be due to start in February 09. With much debate and persuasion I have managed to secure a significant discount for the school. We are also the only school in the country that has completed the ESP Christmas Puzzle that has gained us 30% discount on top of this I have been wheeling and dealing to secure the rest. (Thanks to my brother in law for completing the so called impossible puzzle in 30mins! ESP we very surprised when I informed them as you can imagine!!)

As you are aware PTA had designated an initial sum of £5.000 I have worked to this and we will receive all Phase 1 for this amount. This total without reduction was £8.339.00 so in total we have secured a saving of £3.339.00 not bad!!

If we wish to continue the development of Phase 2 & 3 then we will obviously need to continue our fundraising efforts!

### **Phase 1 – Feb 09**

**CPD Training** – We have booked a training session to train all teachers (Primary & Pre) and any playground assistants or parents that may use the markings and equipment. This will ensure that the playground is consistently used to its maximum capacity. I believe it would also be of benefit to nominate a certain number of students to be playground leaders that can attend this training this will help teachers in the delivery of activities at break and lunch times. This will also provide another leadership opportunity for some children

**Thermoplastic Marking Lines** – We have commissioned two further thermoplastic lines to split the playground into 3 distinct areas to ensure the best possible use of all the new and existing playground equipment.

- 1) **YELLOW ZONE** - The area outside the R, 1 & 2 Classrooms will be designated the quiet area making good and safe use of the game boards and the seated area.
- 2) **RED ZONE** - The area at the far end of the playground will be designated the ball games area. This will ensure that the other areas of the playground will be clear

- of moving missiles so that children who wish to play more sedentary games can do so without spending every lunch time ducking from a football!
- 3) **BLUE ZONE** - This leaves the last area free to utilise the already existing (Brilliant) markings we have. The CPD training will ensure that everyone knows what they are for and how to use them.

**Magnetic Giant Snakes & Ladders** – A giant version of the traditional game to be wall mounted in a set within the quiet area. This game can be put on class rotation throughout the term.

**Magnetic Giant Connect 4** – A giant version of the traditional game to be wall mounted in a set in the quiet area. This game can be put on class rotation throughout the term.

**The Soma Cube** – a challenging puzzle for all ages. The puzzle is large (1.2m x 1.2m x 1.2m), tactile and hard wearing. This puzzle is great for developing spatial awareness and team work.

**Tangram Table** – The tangram is a 200 year old Chinese puzzle with over 500 solutions. The objective of this table top puzzle is to form a specific shape with the seven pieces. Great for development of mental visualisation skills.

**Battle Boards** – Free standing double sided battle boards where two individuals or teams can plot coordinates in order to destroy the opponents inventory. Can be themed in many ways by battling ships, cars or aeroplanes. This game will develop team work, understanding of coordinates, spatial awareness and strategic decision making.

**Colour Puzzle Table** – This is a colour coordination brain teaser. 8 colour tagged blocks must fit into the preset shape in a way that allows all the corners to match colour. This develops lateral thinking skills and a real challenge!

**Giant Dominoes** – This adaption of the game is as physically as it is mentally challenging thanks to the giant pieces. You can play the traditional form of the game individually or in teams or play variations such as 3's, 5's etc...

**Activity Timetables** – I will work closely with the school and specifically the school council to draw up timetables of activities and equipment for each week. This will ensure that everyone knows who should be playing where with what. This will help the children and teachers to structure and develop the invaluable time in the playground.

## **Phase 2**

Development of the traditional trim trail that will be coupled with the equipment purchased in phase 1. Approx £8.000 without discount!

## **Phase 3**

Development of an Outdoor Classroom that can be used by the Primary and Pre school. This will be an amazing outdoor learning environment. Approx £4.000 without discount!

If anyone has any questions please catch me in the playground!!!!!!!

