

New addition to Paternoster School in 2020

The Friends of Paternoster have spent the last year and a half raising £110,000 for our much needed outdoor playground. We are so pleased to advise the playground has now been installed.

Our new, wonderful outdoor playground is an exciting learning environment that gives our pupils endless opportunities to have unique experiences, enabling them to become the very best they can. It has brought huge benefits and change to the lives of all our pupils, and hopefully in the future to children with disabilities in the local community and pupils across the SAND Academies Trust once the threat of Covid 19 has reduced.

The playground is a carefully thought out imaginative design that enables every single pupil to play creatively in. Our pupils were involved in the design of the playground from the start and many of their ideas have been incorporated into the design. We chose a range of natural materials and colours to create a stimulating outdoor environment which has had a positive effect on our children's development and communication.

The playground is so much more than just an area for children to play in. It is a purposeful centre for our pupils to socialise in and develop relationships with peers and adults, a place to grow and develop themselves personally. There is something for everyone in the new playground design, including our most complex wheelchair user pupils, who will now have access to the most fantastic wheelchair swing amongst other pieces of specialist equipment.

And, this is what three of our teachers have to say about the new playground

"I cannot over-emphasise the importance of the playground to my class. The interaction between the children has improved beyond anything I expected as they have fun exploring the new equipment together - running up and down the mound, playing together on the roundabout and negotiating who's turn it is next on the swings (no arguments so far!). Also, to have wheelchair accessible play equipment is amazing and the pupil who uses a wheelchair in our class feels fully included. It is an absolute joy to see the children at playtime now".

Maple Class

"The playground has been hugely beneficial for all pupils in our class. It is currently one of their favourite spaces in the school and is a great source of motivation. The varied equipment also provides excellent opportunities for positive social interactions as well as spaces to feel calm (particularly on the swing and hammock). Since using the new playground, we have had reduced behavioural incidents and play times. We have several new pupils in our class, and the playground has been a great help in supporting the children to get to know each other and enjoy play together".

Beech Class

“The playground has offered our pupils a safe and purposeful environment for exploratory play and develop their coordinator and motor skills. They are using pieces of equipment together - which supports their knowledge and understanding of social regulations and most importantly it is fun, engaging and motivating”.

Elm Class

In a year of uncertainty the completion of this project has brought so much joy and positivity to our school and the community. We’d like to take the opportunity to thank the following organisations for believing in this project and providing your support through their donation:

Pied Piper Appeal	The Winstones Trust	The True Colours Trust
Cotswold District Council	The Summerfield Trust	The Garfield Weston Foundation
St James Place	Sports England	Renishaw
The Barnwood Trust	The Toy Trust	Glos Community Foundation
Vitrex	Waitrose	Glos Community Nurses Fund
Ecclesiastical	County Curtains	National Citizenship Service

And last but by no means least we’d like to thank all the individuals who gave up their free time to support us through their own fundraising events – these include:

The pupils of Paternoster school for their car wash event and pop up cafe

The Paternoster Running Mums for completing the Cirencester 10k

Lloyds Banking Group colleagues including Fara Bignell and Lisa Richards for their skydive, Julia Lindop for her Vienna Half Marathon, Emma Hicken for her 10k and the Barnwood Mortgage Underwriting team for organising their evening fundraising event and raffle.

Kim Poole and The '92 club

Rory Bremner and the Cirencester Barn Theatre