

Dear Parents

As promised I would like to keep all parents up to speed with developments regarding an after school club.

Since the 4-11 Club suddenly announced their intentions to withdraw from the school a great number of governors, school staff, New Forest District Council staff, St Mary's Church members and parents have worked very hard to try and solve this short fall in a very necessary service. To all those who have helped, and continue to do so, a big thank you.

We are very confident that we will be able to set up a breakfast club as well as an after school club, which is planned to run 50 weeks a year (yes this includes Inset days and holidays – closed Christmas and New Year). We hope to achieve this by using a combination of school and church facilities.

Some of the existing facilities will need modifications made but we are close to securing the necessary funding to do this.

In addition, by using the available space creatively and co-operating with existing users we should be able to use the school hall two evenings a week for drama and dance clubs. As well as this we are trying to arrange some after school sports clubs. The hall will be freed up to make school plays much easier to stage and extend physical education learning time up to 3.15p.m.

Unfortunately, any new Club needs to be officially agreed by OFSTED, and they have informed us that this will take 25 weeks. This clearly presents a considerable gap in service delivery.

To fill this gap St Mary's Church have very kindly offered to explore the possibility of an additional Youth Group alongside Godzone thereby ensuring cover for 5 evenings a week. The St Mary's Youth Club would need to operate on a commercial basis with a subscription rate set at an appropriate level to cover the costs of salaried youth workers and premises overheads. This, in addition to the new after school activities, we hope will help temporarily fill the gap. There is a legal restriction that clubs can only run for two hours so they would by law be required to end at 17.15, which is earlier than the 4-11 club used to end. At present we have not been able to find a way around this time constraint – but we are currently consulting a Barrister to see what can be done.

For any parents who are having concerns about finding suitable child care, could I recommend a very helpful lady at New Forest District Council, Sue Little (Assistant Development Worker) who is happy to be contacted by parents directly so she can help facilitate suitable childcare. Email: [sue.little@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.little@nfdc.gov.uk). Tel: (023) 8028 5480.

We are very keen to structure the proposed services around the whole community and would appreciate expressions of interest with regard to what services you would find

helpful (please find attached formal form from The County Council regarding the new After School Club). We would also appreciate expressions of interest in using Godzone and the new potential St Mary's Youth Club, which would run on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. **At this stage any expression of interest is simply that, and will in no way be binding.**

Furthermore, we are very keen to talk to anyone who would be interested in working for the Extended School Services (Breakfast Club and After School Club) or help with the temporary service for young people being explored by the St Mary's Church Community. Previous experience and qualifications are always a benefit but all necessary training can be supplied - so please don't be put off. At this stage we are keen to talk to anyone who might be interested – and qualifications that we will help you achieve are nationally recognised and could start a whole new career. Whether you want to work every session, or only a couple of sessions, or perhaps you'd like to run the whole club please write to **The Governing Body, care of The School Office** expressing your interest.

We will continue to work hard on all these projects and appreciate all the support we have received to date – I hope there remains a demand for these services otherwise we will not be able to move them forward from theory into reality.

I feel that the abrupt departure of the 4-11 Club from Bransgore School has inevitably caused a great deal of anxiety and stress for many parents. However I hope this letter goes some way to assuring those concerned that many people are working very hard in order to make a difference. I hope that the possibility of 50 weeks a year childcare, and extended after school activities is something that all parents and children at Bransgore school can appreciate.

Yours sincerely

Dr Steve Tomkins  
Chair of Governors