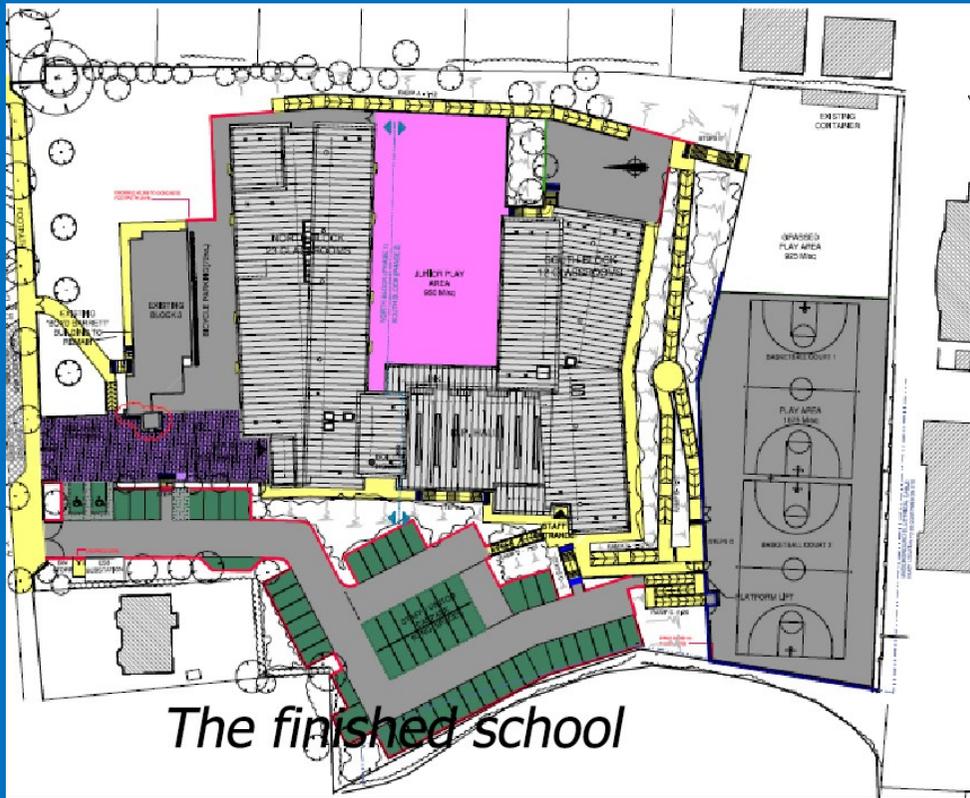
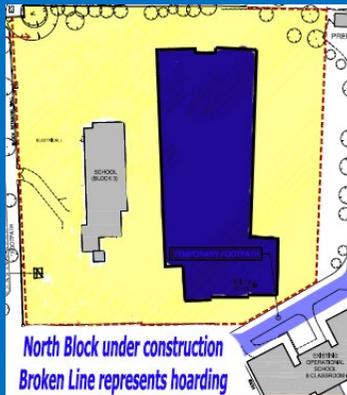


A very  
Happy New Year  
to all in our  
school community

2016 is going to be our year



The finished school



A full set of images and drawings will be available on line shortly.



## Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh

How often in the last 20 years did we look forward to saying to you - “this is going to be our year, the year in which our new school will start construction.” We began the journey in 1996 in discussion with the Department of Education and Skills (Dept.) on an anticipated increase in the number of classrooms our school would require. In 1998 we were allowed to install the “dreaded” portacabins. (They seemed a good proposal at that point given that we were told that a new building would start within 2 years) We have been through 3 design proposals, up many cul-de-sacs, looked into green fields, been on lists and off lists. Indeed we even had two floods, which is strange in one of the highest schools in Ireland. But all that is now in the past - 2016 is the year it will happen for us

There is little to stop us now. Final documentation has been lodged with the Department of Education and Skills. The Design Team is presently assessing the suitability of interested Building Contractors. Tender Documents and Contracts are being prepared and, if everything goes according to plan, Builders should be on site during the Summer Holidays or early in the new school year. Some will say, we have heard all this before. But this is different. To stop us now would have huge financial implications, so the Department of Education and Skills will not allow that to happen so it’s “all systems go”.

### Why did it take so long:

Many have asked why it has taken so long, given that other schools were designed and built within very short time frames. One of the big problems was the nature of the site, with its steep rise and its restricted size. Three different design proposals were put forward but each was turned down by either Department of Education and Skills or the Planners. Indeed a year’s delay was incurred due to the present design going to An Bord Pleanála. All this is now behind us, as we look forward with anticipation to the construction and occupation of our state-of-the-art school which we hope will be fully built and occupied by Sept. 2018.

### Where to from here? The stages are as follows:-

The Final Documentation (2B Submission) has been submitted to the Dept. for approval. This has all been pre-approved so should not take longer than the normal 3 months.

Meantime the Design Team is assessing the suitability of the Building Contractors and will create a short list of ten candidates.



- The Dept. will agree the 2B Submission and the Design Team will then issue Tender Documents to the chosen 10 Contractors and, when returned, the lowest tender will be accepted and a contract signed under the rules of Public Procurement.
- The Contractor will arrive on site within two weeks of signing the contract.
- The first job that will be undertaken will be the erection of New Modern Prefabs in the Top Yard needed to house the classes presently in the Old School and Portacabins. These will be in use by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> during the entire programme. This is expected to take approximately two years from start of project.
- Once the necessary Prefabs are in place in the Top Yard, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes will transfer. The old Portacabins will be removed but the Old School will be retained.
- Work will now commence on Block1 of the New School (see rear for drawings and phases)
- Once Block1 is completed, the children will move from the Main Building and E-Building into Block1 which will have 24 classrooms.
- The Main Building and E-Building will be knocked and work will begin on Block2
- When Block2 is complete the children from the Prefabs in Top Yard will move in, the Prefabs will be removed and the grounds and play-areas will be reinstated.



### Will there be more Information.

As we go through the various stages outlined above, the school will issue notes updating you on progress. As soon as school has a definite timeline it will issue a Question and Answer type update answering all the question parents will have. such as:

⇒ Will there be disruption to class ?

⇒ Will the children be in school when buildings are being knocked?

⇒ Will children have normal playtimes?

There will be many questions and we will try to anticipate all these and answer them. If you have any particular question you would like answered, please email it to [buildingcom@stops.ie](mailto:buildingcom@stops.ie)

In the meantime please relax full in the knowledge that the school has been through 2 building projects like this in the past and consulted with schools with similar projects on site or just completed. We will keep a very close eye on the education, welfare, health and safety of the children. We look forward with great anticipation to the opening of the new school .

Thanking you for your ongoing support and your patience to date. The end result will be worth it. For now, it’s onwards and upwards. We think one of our 6th. Class mottos sums it all up.

Alan Markey  
 Chairperson

