

Somerville Rise Primary School

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Principal: Nicky Fammartino



Dear school community

I would like to give you an update with the general maintenance around the school as there are a number of jobs in the pipeline and the issues we are tackling are comprehensive. The approach has been both proactive and responsive as we would like to ensure the work completed does not reoccur.

It was a delight to have not been contacted in the holidays to respond to damage of windows or buildings.

Responding to vandalism drains our human and financial resources and side tracks us from concentrating on the proactive jobs. The investment into video cameras seems to be paying off and you may have noticed a still from our video surveillance on a crime stoppers web site.

The works on the gym and surrounding concrete areas are well under way and will be completed by the middle of March. Once this job fixes the drainage in the junior area we will be targeting the rising damp in the junior toilets, in addition to this we are investigating damage to another section of the underground water system as a spike in our water use had flagged a section that needs to be addressed (different to the areas that were addressed in the past two years). We are also seeking advice on whether this may be the cause of rising damp in the junior toilets before proceeding.

To date we have had the ceiling panels on the inside of all classrooms replaced along with the carpet in the junior building to eliminate any risks associated with damp in buildings.

Despite routine cleaning of guttering, the issue of bottles blocking the drainage pipes came to our attention when the gym workers removed sections as part of their work in this area. We are in the process of addressing the damp in the eaves around the main building, probably as a result of this and we also have some pending work around the outside of the Junior building.

Thanks Taylor Burchett who notified the school community through our school council Facebook page of some glass near the bike rack and also for doing an excellent job cleaning up the majority. Liz Bodley our Business Manager and I appreciated this during our morning safety walk. There were also a couple of angry bees looking for the hive we had removed on the weekend noticed but had thankfully found another home by Monday morning before the students arrived.

Despite attempts to secure grants for the middle school play equipment, some lateral thinking to re-home council equipment and weekly make safe repairs, our new maintenance officer Michael has deemed it beyond repair and it has been sectioned off. In the mean time we will share the senior playground with the middle school and we will have break one for middle school use and break 2 for senior school use. Ideas on redevelopment and or repurposing this area will be drawn from the students as were the redevelopment of the pit areas. Stay tuned...

Finally we are waiting on Craig's family to let us know what they want in relation to bringing his vision of the barn back to its former glory. Craig also had a vision of a dry river bed near the 3/4 equipment which was put on hold. In the near future we will be calling on the school community to help bring about these visions and give our school a much needed cosmetic lift through a Working Bee (date to be advised). If you have time and skills to offer can you please contact the school.

Regards,

Nicky Fammartino