

# Reading School

Community newsletter  
November 2020



Reading School students playing sports

## Proposed sale of part of Morgan Road Playing Fields

Reading School is proposing to sell part of the Morgan Road Playing Fields so that we can improve sports facilities for the school and local community.

The proposal is subject to permission to sell the land being obtained from the Department for Education. This newsletter is to help us get in touch with parents, teachers, neighbours and local stakeholders to inform them of the proposal and our plan to use the proceeds to improve sports provision at our school. We would like to hear your thoughts.



Aerial view of Morgan Road playing fields

## Why we are doing this

The Morgan Road Playing Fields have traditional grass pitches. These are poorly drained which limits their use, particularly during the winter months. The school governors believe that our pupils and the broader community would benefit if part of the playing fields were sold to allow us to create a new sports centre at the main campus and considerably improve the playing facilities at Morgan Road.

A new layout has been devised for Morgan Road which means we can release part of the playing fields in order to fund these improved facilities. The bulk of the playing fields would continue to be used by the school and local community.

Any development proposed on the playing fields would require planning permission from Reading Borough Council and prior consultation with residents, neighbours and the broader community. **At this stage we simply want to know your views on the proposal to sell part of the playing fields and on our plans for what we would do with the funds.**

## A summary of the proposed new facilities

The new sports facilities would include:

- A brand new Sports Centre with indoor sports courts, changing areas and other supporting sports facilities
- A new 3G Sports Pitch at the Morgan Road Playing Fields which would allow sport to be played there more frequently throughout the seasons
- A new three-quarter sized grass sports pitch at the Morgan Road Playing Fields which would be used for smaller team sports and training.
- Changing facilities at Morgan Road Playing Fields
- The renovation of the school's swimming pool



Proposed new layout with surplus area shown in red



## Supporting sport at Reading School

There is no sports centre or similar facility at Reading School, and the existing gymnasium is not large enough to fit in a badminton court. A new Sports Centre would be a fantastic addition to the school, creating space on site for a range of sports to be played in all weathers, from badminton and tennis to team sports such as basketball and hockey.

For outdoor sports such as football and rugby, a new 3G all-weather pitch would enable us to play outdoor sport all year round. It would make better use of the space we have, reduce wear and tear on our other pitches and also the time that pitches are out of use. Our new pitches would be marked out to play a range of sports.

The proceeds from the sale would also support the renovation of the existing but now out of use swimming pool and allow us to bring it up to modern standards and reduce the costs of upkeep.

Overall these proposals would dramatically change and improve the way sport is taught at the school, it would improve the facilities at Morgan Road which are also available for use by the local community out of school hours and provide a potential income stream to further benefit the school in the future.

## How you can help

We'd like to know what you think of the proposed sale, our plans for using the proceeds to improve sport provision at the school and if you feel there are other issues we need to take into account before progressing these proposals.

We are required to consult all affected parties before requesting permission to sell from the Secretary of State for Education. Whether you are a parent or student, neighbour or stakeholder – please help us by taking part in our consultation by returning a prepaid reply card or visiting:



[www.readingschoolsport.co.uk](http://www.readingschoolsport.co.uk)

If you have any questions, please email them to [info@readingschoolsport.co.uk](mailto:info@readingschoolsport.co.uk) or call us on Freephone 0800 148 8911.