

Parish Council
Bishops Lydeard

Dear Members of the Parish Council,

Re: Nursery Building — progress update and thanks

Thank you again for your extraordinary support. Your initial investment of £100,000, followed by the additional £50,000, has directly enabled the creation of our new nursery facility and made a significant difference to our youngest pupils and families.

Summary of recent progress

- **Completion and opening:** Construction work on the new nursery building was finished on 31 August 2026. The staff team then used a short turnaround (we also have 2 INSET days that week) to build, fit out and set up the space. Children started on 7 September 2026 — it was a near run thing, but the team did a brilliant job to make the site ready on time.
- **Remaining building work:** A small number of practical jobs remain. The windows are scheduled to be completed during the October half-term. New decking and a covered buggy park will be built by the main entrance. A new external sign is being designed and will be delivered and installed once finalised. We still have Wi-Fi, phones and some internal tech to complete and commission.
- **Outstanding resource orders:** We have some nursery equipment still outstanding from suppliers. In particular, items ordered from TTS have taken longer than expected: TTS indicated a maximum 5–8 week turnaround when we ordered; we placed our order with roughly 10 weeks to opening, and 12 weeks on there are still some undelivered items. In the meantime the team are rallying round and using older resources so children's routines and learning are not disrupted.
- **Staffing and pupil numbers:** We have now fully appointed the nursery team, including a full-time nursery lead. On Mondays and Fridays we combine the two rooms because of lower numbers on those days. Currently we are lower than expected on 3- and 4-year-old places but have a substantial waiting list for 2-year-olds. The school is reviewing the session structure and capacity to ensure we admit as many children as possible in the coming weeks. Pupils make full use of the building: rooms are shared daily and the upstairs is set up as a soft-play and sensory room. Numbers on roll have increased from 25 to 35 children since opening.

Invitation and opening ceremony

Once the final building works are complete and the furnishing is finished, we will be delighted to invite the Parish Council, Rachel Gilmour, Bishop Fiona and representatives from the Trust Central Team to an official opening and short ceremony. We will share a confirmed date as soon as the final items are in place.

Closing thanks

We remain incredibly grateful for the Parish Council's support — your funding has transformed our provision for the youngest pupils and their families. I have attached some photographs showing the new building alongside the nursery in action so you can see the impact of your investment.

With thanks and best wishes,

James Dakin
Headteacher
Bishops Lydeard Church School



