

Sports Premium 2021-2022

After meeting the Hunters Hall finance Manager, Farjana Begum, we discovered that we have £32,000 available for Sport and Physical Activity remaining from this year's budget. The total P.E budget to date was made up of the following:

£17,000 – Sports Premium

£15,000 – Sports Fundraising

Even though the Sports Fundraising budget is not required to be spent as urgently as the Sports Premium (August 2022), the funds will enhance the project in mind –artificial grass, a shaded area and sports markings in the Sports Playground.

Benefits of having artificial grass:

Low maintenance surfacing

Artificial grass is purposely designed to be low maintenance, providing a safe, robust surface that is easy to look after and lasts for years.

All year round weather use

British weather being what it is, there are always times of the year when grassed or concrete surfaces become a no-go area. Periods of prolonged or heavy rain can quickly turn safe play areas into a slippery hazard zone. There's an increased risk of injury. In many cases, the PE curriculum will be disrupted and areas of the playground made out of bounds. The weather resistance of artificial grass removes this problem. It won't stop the children getting cold or wet, nor, unless we have underground heating, will it stop snow from settling; however, for the best part of the year, the surface will remain useable without having to worry about children slipping or getting a mud bath.

Increase opportunities to play and take part in physical activity

Artificial grass has become an integral element of modern playground design used to improve the aesthetics of the playground, creating a stimulating outdoor environment that inspires and motivates children to participate in a wider variety of outdoor play. It can be used to create specific, all weather play zones and provide more suitable surfaces to surround and put under play equipment.

Safer surface to participate

The modern school playground makes increasing use of play and outdoor learning equipment. In the future we could expect to see play towers, climbing frames, creativity and role-play apparatus, sports equipment, messy play areas, nature zones, playground markings plus a wealth of outdoor classroom equipment installed in a schoolyard.

One of the benefits of artificial grass is that it provides additional safety for our children. This is because it can be installed with a shock pad underlayer that absorbs impact if a child trips or falls and reduces the potential for injury.

Brings some nature and colour to the area.

Although artificial grass isn't real nature, it can provide the perfect surface on which to install planters and trellises to create a green zone in our playground. Trellises can be used to grow climbers or shrubs that create living walls and planters can be used to add colourful plants. The artificial grass provides a low maintenance, complementary surface that is usable all year round and comfortable to sit on during drier weather.

Artificial grass is a practical solution for school surfacing. It needs little maintenance, can be used all year round, provides safe surfaces for physical activities, increases opportunities for play, improves the aesthetics of the playground and enables the creation of green spaces in a parts of the school where it is difficult to achieve.

Benefits of professional markings in the playground:

Carefully chosen playground markings are able to boost physical activity levels, reinforce learning goals, and encourage more positive social interaction, while remaining inclusive and motivational for students of various interests and skill levels. Here are the six main ways our pupils can benefit:

Stimulate physical activity during break times

Children between the ages of 5 to 18 need at least one hour of solid exercise per day, according to research by the NHS, and many children don't get this level of exercise at home. Playground markings will therefore, provide a great way to encourage our pupils to stay active throughout their time with us. One of the key strengths of school playground design is that it essentially creates 'zones' within the playground, separating them out into distinct spaces which can better motivate children to participate in team sports like netball, football and basketball. It's not necessarily just sports either – having a mix of markings that cater to different physical activities can help broaden the appeal to physical activity, providing encouragement for our children who would normally abstain. Initiatives like the Daily Mile are becoming particularly popular in many schools, providing a fun and inclusive way to encourage healthy physical activity, which is something we have discussed bringing to Hunters Hall in the past.

Better provision for Physical Education

As well as helping pupils themselves to be more active on the playground, markings like various courts are often an exceptionally useful lesson resource for teachers. Namely, having a number of different playground markings and zones can help give teachers a broader range of games and activities to work with during PE lessons, allowing them to keep their lessons varied, engaging and enjoyable. Ultimately, this enables them to tailor their lessons to pupils of many

different interests and skills, helping them to discover the games and sports that interest them, and giving them valuable opportunities to practice and develop their physical skills.

Helping to develop social skills

One of the core benefits of physical activity is that it doesn't just promote excellent physical health, but is also brilliant for fostering friendships and social interactions between children too. School playground design acts as a major facilitator of this, as group games encourage communication and collaboration, whereas individual games help with turn taking, patience, respect and empathy. Children who might be normally shy can communicate more freely within the contexts of the game, helping them to lay the foundations of lasting friendships beyond the games, too.

Reduce confrontations and bullying

As we touched on above, playground markings are frequently used to give playgrounds distinct 'zones'. Setting these subtle boundaries can be invaluable for children, as it gives them the freedom to join in the games, or the space they need to stay away and cool down. For example, groups of children chatting are less likely to position themselves within the obvious boundaries of a nearby basketball game, while the basketball game in turn is less likely to spill over into the quieter area. This gives both groups the room to enjoy and socialise however they want, encouraging them to interact in more positive ways. These benefits carry on over into the classroom, too. Public Health England says that physical activity improves social behaviour, results in better peer relationships and results in reduced classroom disruption. Many experts believe this is because active children healthily expend their physical energy outside, so they're not as restless in the classroom, and ready to learn when they come in.

Supporting other learning activities

Depending on what sort of children's playground markings we choose for our school environment, we can strategically use them to support other learning aspects too. Children can practice simple addition and subtraction through snakes and ladders and other numbers games, or practice their times tables through fun multiplication grids.

Help the playground to feel more vibrant and comfortable

We can create a personality and friendliness in our playground, or emphasise our school's values through our choice of games or characters, helping to make our playground feel a more inclusive and comfortable place

Benefits of shelter in the Sports Playground:

Some of the best school playgrounds earn their distinction because they offer protected areas where students can rest during playtime. A shelter will protect

our children from sun exposure and rainy weather, sustaining longer stretches of fun and safe play, which we currently do not have in the sports playground.

Next Steps:

It is hoped that the governing body agree to the above plan so that Chris Brown and I can start to proceed with obtaining quotes for the above and for work to beginning during the 6 weeks holiday.