



Woodmancote School
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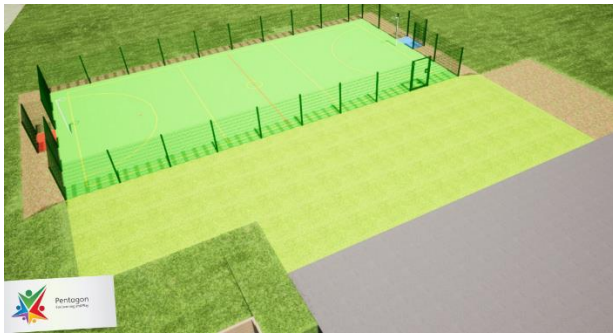
Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 25th March 2022

We are very excited to announce a new project at Woodmancote - **A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**.

As we have just been successful in obtaining planning permission for this, and hope that the project will take place over the summer holidays, we thought it deserved its own newsletter!



What is a MUGA?

MUGA is an acronym for Multi-Use Games Area.

Just as the name suggests, these types of pitches are suitable for multiple sports that can all take place on the same pitch, in all weathers.

Why do we need a MUGA?

1. The Impact of COVID on the Health and Well-Being of Children

Prior to the COVID Pandemic, Children's mental health and well-being was of concern. However, the pandemic has undoubtedly exasperated the issue. We believe that we have a duty to address some of the issues raised by organisations such as the Children's Society and BBC Children In Need referenced below:

*As decision makers develop guidance and families adapt to the COVID-19 response, the best way to maintain and improve children's levels of well-being is through the 'five ways to well-being'. These five types of activity improve well-being and have been identified using a wide ranging international evidence base. For children and young people, the five ways to well-being are: By aiming to maintain friendships, provide opportunities for physical and creative recreation and support children to continue learning, there is much society at large can do to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not have wide ranging and significant implications for well-being. **The Impact of Covid-19 On Children and Young People Briefing (2021).** Children's Society.*

Increased emotional wellbeing and mental health challenges: *the pandemic was impacting on existing mental health and new issues were emerging for children and their parents. Anxiety, fear and stress are particular concerns.*

Risks to physical wellbeing: *children's physical wellbeing was at risk through reduced nutrition or physical activity for fitness, for those with health conditions, from the pandemic itself.*

Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people Early Pandemic Period April - May 2020 (2020). BBC Children In Need.

2. The limitation of outdoor space

Due to the expansion of our school during recent years, any outdoor space and play equipment that we do have is becoming increasingly crowded by the children during breaktimes. The field can be waterlogged during the winter months so the children are limited to the playground areas for a lot of the year. These factors have an impact on PE lessons too, with many of these having to be carried out in the school hall. A MUGA could be used in all weathers, for PE lessons, breaktimes and afterschool clubs, giving the

children more space and opportunity to exercise outside.

3. NHS Advice

Advice from the NHS states that children need to be active for at least 60 minutes a day. Being active also helps with mental health. Evidence shows that children and young people who are more active have more confidence, higher self-esteem, less anxiety and stress, and better social skills - attributes that can help them deal with the challenges they face in daily life. Having a positive attitude towards physical activity has also been associated with children being happier.

The intended outcomes of the MUGA

MUGA surfaces make it possible to provide facilities for multiple sports. Designed to provide optimal playing properties and protection against injuries, they are also hard-wearing, long-lasting and easy to maintain.

The MUGA is designed to last for a minimum of 10 years before any further expenditure on it is required. During this time over 1260 pupils and pre-school children are expected to have been on roll at the school and benefited from the facility.

Where will the MUGA be located?

The area of ground where the MUGA will be situated used to house our trim trail that was built over astro turf. This was used by the children throughout the year as the ground was an all-weather surface.

Unfortunately the trim trail, that was over 10 years old, was condemned during the last play equipment inspection, due to being rotten and unsafe for children to use. As the equipment

was beyond repair, we had no choice but to remove it.

Shortly after this, the astro turf on the remaining ground was severely damaged during a storm, and also had to be removed for safety reasons. This has left an area of ground that is not in a condition suitable to be used by the children for exercise or for play.



Ground currently



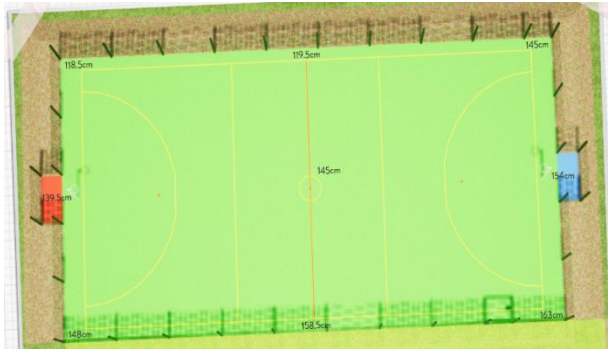
Ground with MUGA installed

Our MUGA design

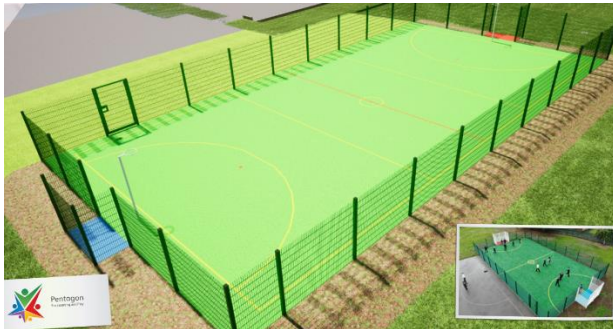
The MUGA itself will be 24m X 12m and will have a multi-sport surfacing, providing a new sports area that can be used by our school children of all ages, whatever the weather. It will have red and yellow pitch markings for football and netball, blue and red goal ends and 2 netball sockets with posts.



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The MUGA will be enclosed with 2m high fencing, with mesh rebound up to 1.2m.



The ground in front of the MUGA will be surfaced with artificial grass, giving an additional all-weather area, as well as allowing easy access to the MUGA.



How will the MUGA be funded?

We have been able to allocate / raise a large portion of the cost of the MUGA, and are now pursuing the following in order to cover the shortfall:

- Sponsors
- Grants
- Crowdfunding campaign
- Organised fundraising by the children at school

We are not asking for substantial donations, but are hoping that if a number of businesses or organisations offer a small donation then this would help to cover the shortfall.

In return for a donation we will recognise your business or organisation on a specific 'MUGA Sponsors' page on our website, as well a mention on our parents' newsletter. In addition to this, for any donation of £1000 and over, we will put a small 'sponsor plaque' on the MUGA fence which will be seen by parents during school drop off and pick up times.

How can you help?

If you own a business, have contacts with somebody who does, or think that your Employer may be able to offer sponsorship we would love to hear from you!

Please email sbm@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk or telephone Mrs Williams on 01242 674312 to discuss further.

Further details, including the detailed project plans can also be found on our website: <https://woodmancoteschool.co.uk/multi-use-games-area-muga-project/>

Thank you for your support



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