



The New Library Burneston Primary School

The Story





Foreword

This is a story of how simple requests for help from people in our community can really make a positive difference by knowing the right people.

That weekly visit of Rev James visiting the school gives Head Teacher 'Suzy' an opportunity to express her frustrations of not being able to provide the needs of the school with a limited budget.

It has given us great pleasure to provide this building which has become a library, giving children the best possible start to their learning.

It was this determination and drive from the Head Teacher that eventually 'Opened the door'.





The Journey



Rev James visits the school weekly; it was a busy time as Easter was approaching and of course, school holidays, yet Head Teacher, Suzy Smart kept asking Rev J did he have any news on an additional storage building.

In early Spring of 2023, Rev James Gwyn - Thomas approached Derrick seeking a storage container for the school to replace 2 old garden sheds in the school grounds. The sheds were not large enough for the school's needs, as well as not watertight!





At the beginning of Summer Term, a Portakabin Unit which had been used by MES as a canteen was becoming available. It was owned by Derrick Potter and Andrew Frost and his children go to the school.

It was decided to offer this to the school.

After school had finished on Friday 3rd of May 2023, Suzy and Tim came to have a look at this old cabin, in its current location on the Ripon Estate of Potter Space. The sun was shining as they inspected inside and out.

They could not get over the size of the Portakabin approximately 13.5m long x 4m wide, standing 3m tall. Weighing 6.5 tonnes.





Questions and more questions came our way as Potter Space and the Head of the Construction Team, John Royle assisted by Hamish Minshall were now put in charge of seeing what might be possible.

Would this cabin fit into the school area?

Would planning be required?

What resource did the school have to manage this project?

The school initially were looking for extra storage for play equipment. After viewing the building their thoughts on its use quickly changed.

The Start.....

Now the real work began to bring about all the changes that were required to deliver this project.

Permissions had to be sought from the church Diocese as it was a church school, the planning approval had to be sought from the New Unitary Authority of North Yorkshire.

These processes are very demanding as well as very time consuming!

The remainder of 2023 passed by until in February 2024 when permission was finally granted.

The detailed plans were put in place after numerous visits to Burneston along with key discussions and decisions being made.





What happened next.....

The old wooden sheds were removed to create the space needed and the main construction project was underway once the Easter Holidays started.

The perimeter fence was temporarily taken down to allow machinery access to dig out and prepare the foundations using recycled stone and installing new underground drainage to link into the rainwater system.









Delivery of the large Portakabin took place early one morning after a lot of detailed measuring, as well as route planning. This then enabled the positioning and the craneage to be completed in quick time.





2 Lorries were used to lift and move the cabin into its new home.





Now the cabin was in place, the ground workers started to prepare the area around the cabin to build the footpaths.





Drainage being installed.



New wheelchair access ramps had to be constructed for the main doorway as well as the emergency doorway.







The surrounding area was levelled up and a finishing layer of stone applied.



The perimeter fence was then able to be reinstated.

Everything was now ready for painting and decorating, and the colours were chosen by the school.

The new outside colour chosen was Forest Green. 2 coats were applied including repainting the steel frame supports in undercoat and topcoat. All the white plastic windows had been cleaned before protecting them with masking tape.







New door canopies were installed above each doorway.





Inside the Building

New insulated panels were fixed to all interior walls then plaster skimmed to leave a nice smooth finish.

New electrics, all wiring, light fittings, heaters were renewed to give reliability and a long future.



New carpeting was installed with the colour chosen by the school, many thanks for support and guidance from Bill Calvert and his Team.

The New Library was taking shape at last, having been totally transformed into its new surroundings looking very smart.





Billy Bookshelves

The school decided that these bookshelves were very sturdy, easily adjustable, maximise the space of the New Library by placing them around the walls.

20 new white bookshelves were ordered and arrived at Potter Space, Ripon.



Erection of these were undertaken by Brian and Derrick. Initially it took 45 mins to put the first one together until they got their 'jackets off' and then production was improved to 20 mins!

All the bookshelves were transported on two trailer loads to the school. The Head Teacher had drawn a plan as to how the shelving should be located. It was evident that a secure fixing would need to be put in place to hold the top of each unit back to the wall for safety.





Well done to Andrei who came up with a practical solution!





Amazingly after a lot of perseverance the book shelving started to take shape as walls were filled up with shelving.

Andrei, Derrick & Suzy



New books were required to fill those empty shelves. Books 66 are a valued customer of Potter Space at Ely in Cambridgeshire and Nony Boxer is the MD. Nony was keen to help, so Burneston school were invited to get in touch to provide them with a list of books they would like to have.

A very large pallet of new books arrived at Potter Space Ripon. How kind and generous. Well done, Nony!

The new pallet of books from Books 66 were then collected and transported to the new library, where after being laid in rows onto the





floor, the senior pupils put the 'school stamp' into each book, then sorted into various sections.



The Finishing Touches

The days of the week before the Grand Opening, always require those 'finishing touches' carried out, like painting the old metal fencing. Derrick and Grandson James came and painted the fences ahead of the Grand Opening on Friday 28th June 2024.

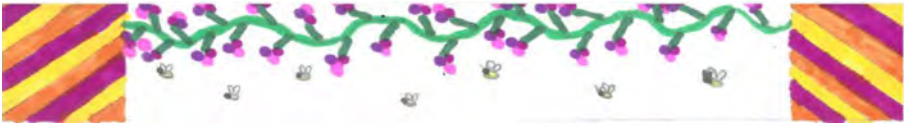




The last thing to do was attach the new signs for the school library.

The Books 66 and the Potter Space signs arrived and were fixed in place inside the building and the new external signs arrived at the same time and were fixed to the cabin ahead of the 'big day'.





Well done to Head Teacher, Mrs Suzy Smart, her very supportive Team and of course all the pupils with helping decide all the paint colours, inside and out!

The School Children

At every stage of this journey the Head Teacher involved the children in the 'key' decisions, resulting in them all being excited as the library took shape.





The Construction Team

John and his Team have been a shining example of the culture and enthusiasm on delivering a project on time with a big smile.

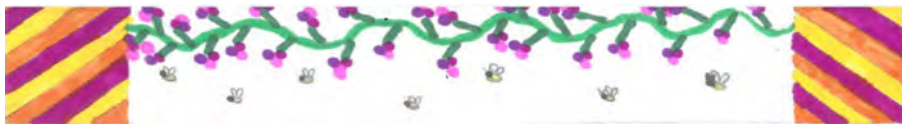
It looked like a simple project at the outset but the delivery along with the weather has been more challenging.

John



Hamish





The Children's Invitation for the Grand Opening

The design of the ' Invitation ', was amazing!





Our New Library

Let me start by saying that during the last year at every stage of this process I have constantly been 'pinching myself' realising that this might become a reality!

When I first met Derrick, he told me the story of how his father had bestowed on him the 'art of giving', helping others!

Golly gosh at the time I didn't realise that 'giving' is embedded in all the Potter Space Team. It is very clear that this approach comes from the top. Jason Rockett, (MD) you have every reason to be very proud of ALL your Team!

At every stage they were kind, polite, enthusiastic and overcame problems that arose. There were plenty of those, during those wet and cold days that turned into months!

Derrick and Margaret have been here with the team at every stage to listen to the various discussions and decisions made by 'the pupils' on colours outside, inside and the Billy bookshelves.

As the finishing touches have been put in place, last Saturday our rusty old metal fence was wire brushed and repainted smart green, it was not planned, it just happened!

Margaret bought the paint, Derrick and James carried out the work! That just epitomises how this 'gift of kindness' comes to life!





Then the arrival of a van full of New Books, a Gift from Nony Boxer, so kind!

Rev James tells the children about 'miracles'; Can they really happen?

From all of us at Burneston Primary School, Thank you for

'Making our DREAMS' come true!!

Thank you so much to all our generous Sponsors.

Mrs Suzy Smart, Headteacher & Mr Tim Easton, Assistant Head Teacher





Thanks to

Derrick Potter and the Potter family
Potter Space (Rushwood Management Services): Jason Rockett (Managing Director), John Royle (Head of Construction), Hamish Minshull (Project Surveyor), Gill Hodgkin (Contract Admin), Judith Ellis (Project Procurement), James Alvarez (General Operative), Richard Dearden (Head of Marketing), Russ Lloyd (Head of Finance)
Bentley Construction: Andrei Nistor (Director/Site Manager), Radu and Roman (Groundworkers)
Calverts Carpets: Bill Calvert
Wetherby Stone: John and Alex Chalmers
Garcross: Wayne Haddock
Davies Electrical Contracts Ltd: Jon Davies
PCF Specialist Contracts Ltd: Thomas Collins
SGS: Paul Ellis
Building Materials Ltd: Danny Cairns
RAP (Recycled Asphalt): Matthew Robinson
AQ Logistics: Rob Macaulay
Brian Blythe
66 Books: Nony Boxer

