



St Philomena's School Moree
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Friday 9th June, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the recent developments regarding our school's Parish Hall building and the future plans of our school library.

The building known to many as the 'Parish Hall' has suffered significant damage over the past 10 years as a result of flooding. After the flood experienced in Moree in late 2022, the school, in collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office Armidale, engaged the services of a structural engineer to assess the building for possible movement damage sustained by the flood waters. The structural engineer's report has confirmed that major foundational work is required to ensure the safety and stability of the building. After carefully considering the cost-benefit analysis, a recommendation has been made regarding the demolition of the building given its age, condition and overall financial cost associated with its possible repair.

The Parish Hall has served the school in many forms, the latest of which has been as our school library. In collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office Armidale, we are designing a new vision for a contemporary learning/library space at St Philomena's School. This new space will provide our students with an updated and engaging environment to foster their love for reading and learning.

The relocation of our library, along with its furniture and resources, will take place from Week 8 of this term. We are putting in place a comprehensive plan to ensure a smooth transition.

Regarding the demolition of the Parish Hall, we are currently awaiting official confirmation and the certificate of demolition. While the demolition is tentatively scheduled for the Term 2 school holidays, we will keep you informed of any changes or updates as we receive them. We understand that this may cause some temporary inconveniences, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the logistics.

We are committed to providing the best educational experience for our students, and we are confident that the relocation of the library into the Learning Centre, as a Collaborative Learning Hub, will continue to inspire, engage and nurture our students' profound love of books and ignite a passion for lifelong learning.

As we bid farewell to the old structure, we embrace the opportunity it brings for future capital works, aimed at enhancing the physical conditions that our students deserve. We are committed to providing an environment that fosters growth, creativity, and learning, and these forthcoming developments align with our vision.

As we embark on this journey, we eagerly anticipate sharing some exciting news with our students, parents, and the entire community in the coming weeks. The possibilities are vast, and we are dedicated to exploring and implementing improvements that will positively impact the educational experience for everyone involved.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this process.

May God continue to guide and bless us all.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dowall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a period at the end.

Jamie McDowall
Principal