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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Elburton Primary School celebrates 50 years   
with Jubilee Playground plan**

Elburton Primary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary and to mark the occasion the school’s PTA is raising money to open a Jubilee Playground.

In 1968 when the school first opened there were 240 pupils, Now, 50 years later the school has 420 pupils   
age 4 – 11 and there are still only the same two small playgrounds.  
  
The school and PTA are launching a Crowdfunder campaign on Monday 11th June for parents and pupils, past and present, grandparents and the community to donate to the cause.  
The Crowdfunder appeal is part of wider fund-raising to secure a total of £35,000.  
From the 11th June the PTA will have 5 weeks to hit their target, so they are asking people to visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk) and search for Elburton Primary School.   
Pledges of specified amounts will receive a special ‘Thank you reward’.  
  
The school is in the process of replacing the classroom huts which have been used for over 40 years but there are no funds to extend the outdoor space. It is cost effective to add the playground at this time given the nature of the groundworks etc.  
  
The current playground areas and outside space are used to host fairs and events that are open to the wider community.  The school’s PTA organises a circus every two years, as well as Christmas and Summer Fairs, which are open to all. The playgrounds are also used by after school clubs and other organisations.  
The children are involved in designing their ideal Jubilee playground.  
  
On Friday 15th June Elburton Primary School will be hosting its 50th Anniversary Summer Fair and invites parents and past pupils and staff from 1.45pm onwards to look around the school and the new classrooms with the fair starting at 3.15pm

The headteacher of the school David Bradford is retiring from his role in July 2018. David will continue in his position as the CEO of the Horizon Multi Academy Trust which includes Elburton Primary School.  
It was David’s vision to improve the learning and outdoor facilities for the children that inspired this project.

**David Bradford said**  
“*After 21 years as the headteacher at Elburton Primary I have witnessed some minor changes to the outdoor space for our pupils, but we have never gained anymore physical space for the sports activities our children would like to partake in during their lunch and breaktimes.   
When I got the position of headteacher Elburton Primary I thought of Elburton as a suburb of Plymouth, but it really is so much more than that. Elburton is its own community with the school really as a hub of the village. This Jubilee Playground will not only be incredibly valuable for the children and staff alike, it will also be able to be used by the local community groups.”*

**Laura Wills, Chair of the Elburton Primary PTA said**  
“*We know that our current project is ambitious, but it will be a great way to mark the 50th Anniversary of the school. We are raising money to make this idea a reality. We want to give our children more space, and a safer, more enjoyable area to relax, socialise and play in. We believe that this is important for our children's mental and physical health.  
We feel strongly that helping to provide a third playground, for all pupils to benefit from, is hugely worthwhile and we hope you can support us.”*The school is on the lookout for photos of the school and pupils over the 50 years which can be used in an exhibition on the 15th June. If you have any, or know of anyone that does, please arrange for the photos to be handed in to the school office clearly labelled with your name and telephone number.

ENDS

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 **Notes to editors**

We are Elburton Primary School's Parent Teacher Association. We are a registered charity (No.1085221) which raises funds to advance the education of the pupils at the school by providing, and assisting in the provision of, facilities for education at Elburton Primary School here in Plymouth, UK.  All parents and carers are automatically members of our PTA whilst their children attend our school. The PTA is actively raising funds through the voluntary efforts of parents, carers, teaching staff and friends in the form of community events for our school playground.    
  
Community groups include the Girl Guides using our school grounds for their Plymbury Festival, and extra playground space will help us develop these links further. The outside areas are also used for sports activities to ensure that the children are given opportunity to have healthy exercise. Community activities have included 7-a-side football, and Oaks rugby coaches training the rugby team. Our project is to build an extra playground to ensure there is sufficient space for everyone, strengthening our school community as well as attracting more external groups to our facilities.

The £35,000 will pay for the cost of levelling and surfacing a new playground, with the installation of suitable drainage and a retaining wall. 