



**EXCITING TIME** Youngsters enjoy the foundation ceremony to celebrate the merger of Penhill Primary School with Swindon Academy

# £2M BOOST FOR SCHOOL

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## Classrooms set to get a revamp

THE former Penhill Primary School is primed for a £2m facelift.

Three mobile classrooms are set to be demolished at the school, which is now part of Swindon Academy.

Plans for its make-over were on show yesterday for public consultation.

The school is to have seven classrooms with conservatories, a new car park and a quiet room for young children.

Architect Roger Evans, of Capita Symonds, who is working on the project, said: "Hopefully it will feel like a brand new school. Feedback has been very positive."

"We have heard from 20 people so far and they all want this to happen."

"The plans show the extension and refurbishment of existing classrooms."

Headteacher Jan Shadick said: "We have applied to put up a 2.4m perimeter fence to ensure that children can play safely and so that the premises are secure for lettings outside of school hours."

"We are currently working closely with Swindon Council on plans for refurbishment of the Alton Close site in order to enhance the learning envi-

ronment for the children. "These plans have yet to be finalised but are well under way."

Penhill Primary was absorbed by the Academy earlier this year.

The Academy was originally formed by the merger of Headlands School with Pinehurst infants and juniors. They will be accommodated in a new building on the Pinehurst People's Centre site.

Staff and students at Penhill held a foundation ceremony to mark their merger a couple of weeks ago. Everyone at the ceremony received a certificate and pin badge in commemoration of being founding members of the new Academy site.

Students were presented with their certificates and badges by Dame Angela Rumbold, the chairwoman of the United Learning Trust – the academy's sponsor – Sir Anthony Greener, the chairman of governors and his wife Lady Greener.

Ms Shadick said: "There should never be any missed opportunities to make our students feel welcome and the foundation day at Alton Close was a wonderful way to do that."

"The choirs surpassed themselves and brought tears to the eyes of a few of the staff and guests."

"We are proud and pleased to have the staff and students at Alton Close with us and look forward to our journey together."

Acting site headteacher Vicky Wyatt said: "The foundation ceremonies were an opportunity for our pupils to feel part of Swindon Academy."

"They wore their badges with pride through the day and showed everyone their certificates."

"I was very proud of all our children, they behaved magnificently and their singing was great."

"It was a lovely day for everyone involved."

### HAVE YOUR SAY

What do you think about the plans to refurbish the former Penhill Primary School

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