

CHAMPS does it again!

Additional free Football Holiday Camp will be based at Cobourg School as part of the CHAMPS offer this holiday period... but act fast to secure a place for your child in Year 3 to Year 6

Free Four Days of Football for all pupils in Year 3 to 6 pupils but applications required NOW (no later than Wednesday 15th March). See overleaf for more details but essentially children choose either the Camelot CHAMPS offer or enrol in Cobourg's CHAMPS Football only Camp.

Feedback from LA/Governors to period of Informal consultation re amalgamation of Camelot and Cobourg Schools—Pages 4-6

Parents/Carers are reminded:

- currently, there is a period of informal consultation
- from the end of the week commencing Monday 13th March this period will finish. Further communication will then follow
- if a period of Stage One consultation follows Camelot parents/carers will be invited to meetings on Tuesday 21st March (9.00 a.m; 3.30 p.m; 6.00 p.m.)

The important school dates for your attention

1. Teacher Strike Action Dates—Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March — see separate letter regarding school opening on these dates.

The school is only open on these dates for Year 6 pupils & children of Critical Workers.

2. Friday 31st March—last day of Spring Term—early closing from 12.00 noon
3. Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April—Spring CHAMPS
4. Monday 17th April—Summer Term begins
5. Remember Monday 1st and Monday 8th May are 'no school' Bank Holidays
6. Year 6 SATs week starts Tuesday 9th May + residential journey Monday 15th May



The New additional CHAMPS Offer

CHAMPS Football Holiday Camp will be based at Cobourg School

Free Four Days of Football and Cycling for all pupils in Year 3 to 6 pupils but applications must be received NOW (no later than Wednesday 15th March).

Apply to School Office or 07931616456... NOW please!

So every Camelot (& Cobourg) pupil has a choice of either:

4 free days based at Cobourg with just football & cycling *.. or
4 free days based at Camelot with dance, arts & craft, basketball, football, trips and the more usual CHAMPS offer

* Cobourg CHAMPS (Yr 3-6); Camelot CHAMPS (Yr 2 –6)

The Camelot Spring CHAMPS finalised offer

Four days of Free Fun and Food for all Camelot pupils in Year 2 to Year 6
Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April

At Camelot School.. and in local swimming pools, around local parks, in cinemas and theatres, on buses and on trips around our local area...
and all for free!

Apply via the school office or by texting the CHAMPS mobile number on
07931616456

Camelot and Cobourg School

Term and Holiday dates

Academic year 2022/2023

Autumn term 2022

- Monday 5th September 2022* to Friday 21st October 2022 (35 school days)
Half Term Monday 24th October 2022 to Friday 28th October 2022
- Monday 31st October 2022 to Friday 16th December 2022 (34 school days)
Mid-term Inset Day Friday 25th November 2022

Spring term 2023

- Wednesday 4th January 2023 to Friday 10th February 2023 (28 school days)
Half Term Monday 13th February 2023 to Friday 17th February 2023
- Monday 20th February 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023 (30 school days)

Summer term 2023

- Monday 17th April 2023 to Friday 26th May 2023 (28 school days)
Half Term Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023
- Tuesday 6th June 2023 to Thursday 20th July 2023 (33 school days)

Inset Days: 5 days for staff only

Thursday 1st September 2022
Friday 2nd September 2022
Friday 25th November 2022
Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Monday 5th June 2023

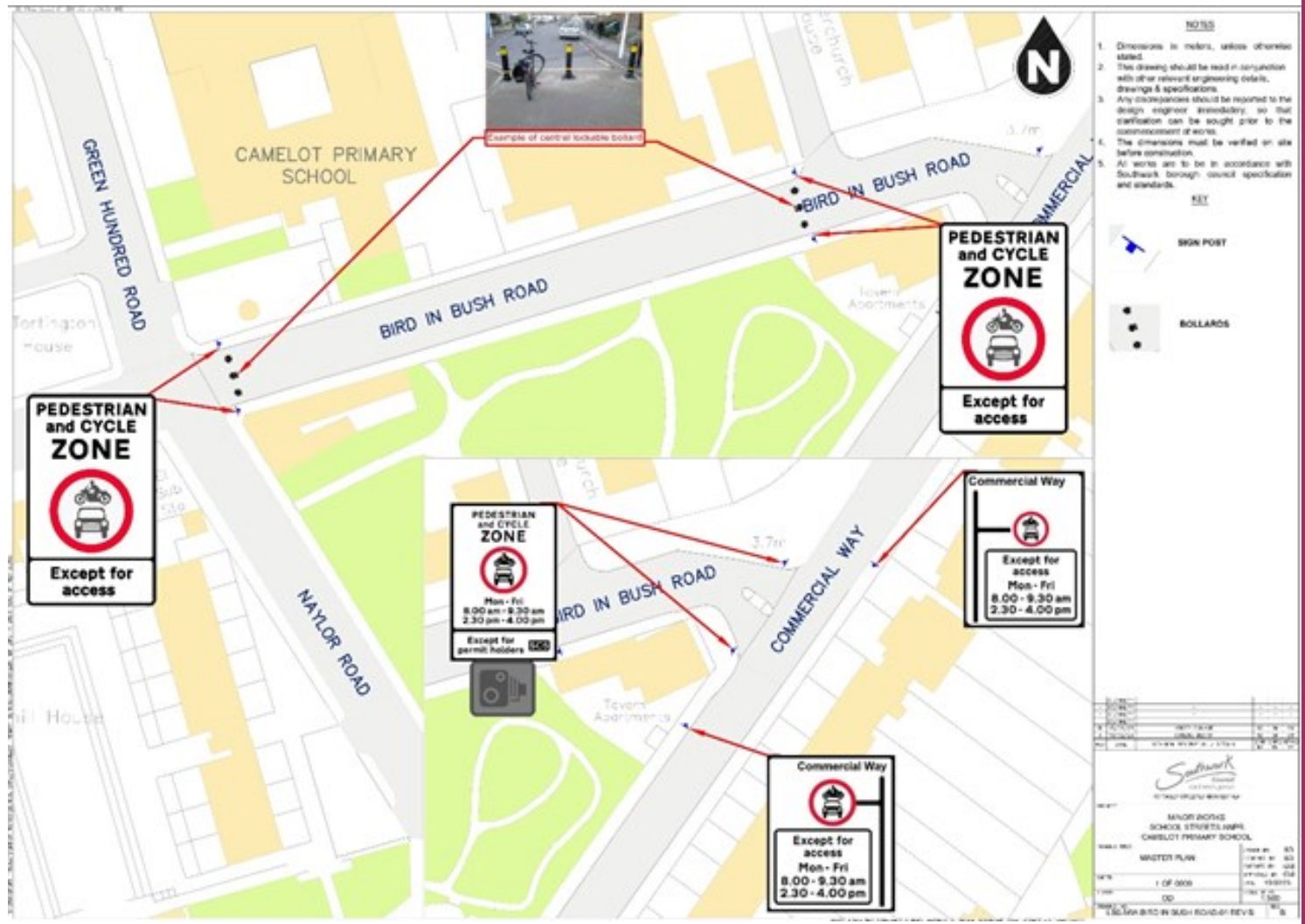
Public holidays

- Good Friday - Friday 7th April 2023
- Easter Sunday – Sunday 9th April 2023
- May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May 2023
- King Charles Coronation Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May 2023

Proposed School Street on Bird in Bush Road

Tell us what you think about plans for a camera-controlled 'School Street' on Bird in Bush Road.

Please comment on these proposals by completing the online consultation at www.southwark.gov.uk/school-street or contact directly at highways@southwark.gov.uk



Feedback from LA and Governors to period of Informal consultation at our school

Additional answers from Southwark representatives to questions from Thursday 23rd February 2023

(Questions 1—4 and 16 to be answered by Mr Robinson in a letter to follow)

5. Why is the Cobourg being proposed to amalgamate on to the Camelot site?

The Camelot site has capacity to accommodate over 650 pupils. Cobourg's maximum capacity is more than 200 fewer pupils than this, and far fewer than the 606 places needed to accommodate both schools' current maximum rolls. Therefore, Cobourg cannot accommodate the places needed.

6. Has the LA seen such an amalgamation plan work in similar situations?

A previous amalgamation of Alma Primary and St James CE Primary took place in 2011 -12 where Alma closed and St James CE became a 2 forms of entry primary school accommodating Alma's pupils and staff. There has not been a similar situation since this, but the informal process of proposing amalgamation is under way now at another pair of Southwark schools in addition to Cobourg and Camelot.

7. How would the amalgamated school work in the summer term, if agreed as a plan, to ensure a smooth transition?

The LA, IEB and school staff will work closely with families to ensure that an effective transition plan is implemented: visiting the Camelot site, meeting the Camelot community, experiencing learning at Camelot, sharing cross school experiences – social events, learning, visits. This will be done so that learning is the key focus and that pupils' possible worries and concerns are managed addressed.

8. If the plans are not supported in the council what is the plan for Cobourg School going forward?

This will need to be confirmed by LA officers and Council members but there are few options available that offer the positive advantages to the communities that amalgamation does. Cobourg is not viable with a roll of less than 15 pupils seeking the school as a first choice: classes will need to be combined and staff will need to be further restructured. This has not been sufficient in other schools such as St. Johns Walworth CE and St. Francesca Cabrini Primary who have already closed or will close this year. The additional issue of possible DfE intervention will have to be managed and this could be disruptive to the plans currently in place which have improved the quality of education at Cobourg. Cobourg is the only school in the LA that has had successive requires improvement judgements from Ofsted and whose early years has also had this judgement: its year 6 outcomes in July 2022 were some of the lowest in the LA again.

9. Why does the process not happen in July 2024 rather than July 2023?

The double requires improvement judgement from Ofsted in March 2022 meant that the DfE could intervene with the school by February 2023. In the autumn term 2022 it informed the IEB and LA that it was going to take action unless they did. This meant that the IEB had to consider options earlier than it had planned: the intention was to work on and build the partnership with Camelot for longer so that the positive impact and benefits would have been clear for all stakeholders.

10. How is the decision re amalgamation being made?

The IEB has proposed that the LA consult on the decision to amalgamate the two schools on the Camelot site with effect from September 2023, to avoid action being taken by the DfE. The LA has agreed to do this and supports the rationale for doing so. There is a statutory process that has to be followed and will be.

[Opening and closing maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

It is hoped that once families consider all options, they will choose to move with others to Camelot if the proposal is accepted by the Council's cabinet. However, all families are able to make their views known through the consultation process which will be clearly outlined.

Additional answers from Southwark representatives to questions from Thursday 23rd February 2023

11. Is there anything that parents can do to stop the process?

It is hoped that once families consider all options, they will choose to move with others to Camelot if the proposal is accepted by the Council's cabinet. However, all families are able to make their views known through the consultation process which will be clearly outlined.

12. What can we do other than give our views/What difference do views make?

It is hoped that families will carefully consider the benefits to the proposal and see how they will positively impact their children. **All** views will be reported and considered, this is a legal obligation.

13. What will the difference be with waiting.. why don't we just wait and see?

This is not an option – Cobourg Primary School faces intervention from the DfE, its finances are not sound as pupil numbers continue to fall and standards need to be consolidated further.

14. Why do the LA not wait to allow another school to close and then move those children into Cobourg?

See the answer to Q13. Additionally, Cobourg is not yet a Good school in its own right without Camelot's support. **All** other schools are Good or better in Southwark (bar one other than Cobourg) and cannot move to a requires improvement provision.

15. Will there be other schools in the area closing due to lack of budget?

The "Keeping Education Strong" strategy that is being implemented by the LA is presently looking at all schools and it is expected that a small number of other schools will have some form of intervention i.e. reduce the numbers of pupils that they can accommodate, amalgamate or close.

Previous answers as published in the School Newsletter 18

1. Where are the two schools?

Cobourg Primary School is situated just off the Old Kent Road adjacent to Burgess Park (SE5 0JD) It is served by several bus routes: 78, 21, 53, 172, 453, 363, 63, 415. Camelot Primary School (SE15 1QP) is situated near the junction of Commercial Road, Bird in Bush Rd and the Old Kent Road. It is a 17 minute walk between the two schools: 78, 21, 53, 172, 453.

2. What would the amalgamated school's name be?

We are in a period of consultation about combining the two schools onto one site. It would seem appropriate for a new combined school to have a new name – so everyone feels they are starting new together. There are no current plans to start consulting on a new name but if the proposal to amalgamation is agreed, that discussion would be open to both school communities.

3. How many pupils can be accommodated at both schools?

*The maximum capacity of Cobourg Primary School is 446 (420 Yr R – Yr 6 + 26 Nursery pupils)
The maximum capacity of Camelot Primary School 656 (630 Yr R – Yr 6 + 26 Nursery pupils)*

4. Are you sure that all the children can fit into the new school?

All pupils at both schools will continue to have a place at the combined school.

Currently there are 226, including Nursery, at Cobourg Primary School. The outside play areas are approximately 2500 sq m divided into 3 play zones.

Currently there are 380 including Nursery at Camelot Primary School. The outside play areas are approximately 7500 sq m. The outside play areas are divided into 8 zones which includes a roof garden.

Answers provided below for first tranche of questions answered to **24.02.23**

6. Are there extra staffing due in classes?

It is currently envisaged that all Teachers and Teaching Support staff on permanent contracts will work at the Camelot site from September 1st 2023. It is anticipated that if the numbers increase as planned and remain high, the school's budget will increase too and allow for further recruitment.

7. Will there be more staff?

Once the pupil numbers have been established from September 1st 2023 for the amalgamation, staffing requirements will be evaluated so that the needs of all pupils are met.

8. Why is the school (Cobourg) closing, not Camelot?

*The **site** is closing at Cobourg but the pupils will be amalgamating with Camelot's. Camelot is a good school (Ofsted January 2018) and the site has the capacity to accommodate the anticipated numbers of pupils (this is not the case for the Cobourg site).*

9. Have you seen this amalgamation work in similar situations?

There is a long history of successful school partnerships working in Southwark and the strategy is being promoted with other schools. However, the circumstances now with falling rolls and financial difficulties means that amalgamations are a way of securing the future of both of the school communities.

10. How would the amalgamated school work in the summer term, if agreed as a plan, to ensure a smooth transition?

The leadership team, with support from the local authority, will ensure that there is a transition plan that enables the children and families at both schools are able to see what the new amalgamated school would like and how it will operate. There will already have been visits, taster sessions, meet and greet sessions, see the facilities sessions, experience learning sessions, have lunches, see the toilets, playgrounds, classes, halls and all the other places that are important to you all. We will follow the principles of the best transition projects that are in place at secondary schools where induction for their new pupils is best. The LA will support with this.

11. How will I know if the school I move to will be subject to future changes?

Decisions from the Southwark Council 'Keeping Education Strong' strategy and review of schools will be shared in due course after those schools have been informed.

12. Could the process be de-railed?

At any point, as we have seen with previous processes, the amalgamation could be stopped from happening.

13. What happens if process doesn't get completed by 1st September 2023?

The statutory process being followed allows for completion in 2023. It is possible to complete the process on another date but the proposal is based upon September 2023 being the best, most appropriate start date.

14. Are there viable alternatives for Cobourg's pupils?

The proposal is amalgamation as Cobourg pupils could be accommodated on a new site as a whole school group rather than dispersed to many schools if the school closed for example. With amalgamation, whole friendship groups, classes and year groups could transfer and remain together rather than possibly break up.

15. Could pupils go to their closet, local schools?

With amalgamation, Cobourg children are guaranteed a place at the Camelot site and school. If a family decides not to transfer, they can seek an alternative place by using the usual admissions process in Southwark. Places cannot be guaranteed to Cobourg children at other schools or held for them.

Governors and LA representatives would like to pass on their thanks to all the Camelot Parents/Carers who have engaged in responding to our consultation.