

## Stirchley Library Update for FOSL AGM December 2020

It is a strange time to be writing about the improvements at Strichley Library with the restrictions in place for Covid-19. Some of you will already have seen some of the changes that have happened.

We have a new boiler, pumps, and associated system in our refurbished boiler room, in the cellar. The cellar isn't open to the public, so some pictures should explain better than words. These provide the heating for the downstairs of the Library.



New boiler



New control panel

We have had some new windows at the rear of the main/central Library area. These have been useful in helping with the increased ventilation necessary to help prevent the spread of the virus.



New windows from inside



New windows and older windows all repainted from outside.

Some paintwork has been refreshed on the inside of the building. This includes patches that have had paint peeling and hanging off such as the Children's Library in the corner and the ceiling, the Office and the ceiling of the Foyer area. In the Foyer area there were cracks in the plaster on the half landing wall above the main door, and upstairs on the wall of the landing. The plaster has been repaired and the areas have been repainted.



Children's Library Corner



Children's Library Ceiling



Office above fireplace and ceiling.



Foyer ceiling and above picture rail - repaint



Upstairs Landing wall – plaster and repaint and ceiling repaint



Half landing wall in Foyer – plaster and paint

Upstairs wallpaper and loose plaster have been removed but not yet replaced. We have a new boiler installed to heat the upstairs rooms.

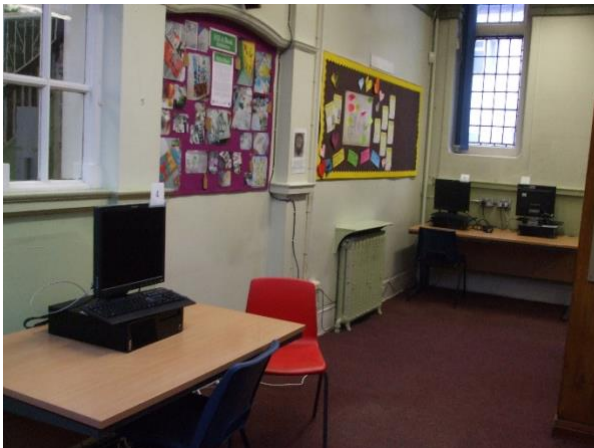


Our service to our customers has obviously been affected by Covid-19 and the Lockdowns. We closed the Library building on 21 March 2020 and staff worked from home delivering via our Facebook page: information; children's audio and videos; promoting our e-books and book reviews and other content. On 6 August we started a new Order & Collect service which we delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. From the 24 September we delivered an Extended Covid-safe Service at Stirchley Library, enabling use of Computers and Browsing for up to 10 customers at a time in the building. During Lockdown2, which started 5 November, we reverted to Order & Collect offering the service on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This has continued as Lockdown 2 has ended and Birmingham has moved into Tier 3 restrictions. These will continue at least until the next review on 16 December.

The Library has been adapted to enable the Extended Service with restrictions of the number of people in each aisle, sanitiser and kiosk use to enable independent use of the Library and boxes to return items that have been handled and aren't being taken out.



Some of the computers have been moved to enable 2 metres between people and these measures have been implemented in the adult and children's rooms.



During opening for Order and Collect, staff have been recording Christmas Videos of book readings and rhymes for our Facebook posts during the Christmas closure.



We really appreciate the help we have had from FoSL. With support from FoSL the number of items issued during the year 2019/up to closure March 2020 was better than the two previous years. If we had continued until the end of March we would have had 34,000 issues which is higher than before we reduced our days and hours of opening in 2016/17.

With FoSL's help we have had more events and people attending them, in the Library. We had an increase each of the previous two years. Over the two years the number of events has more than doubled and the number of people attending has nearly trebled.