

Media Release: 13 June 2024

Building futures for children at Martlesham, Suffolk

++ Local children visit neighbouring housing development to watch construction in action ++

Pupils from Martlesham Primary Academy have welcomed the opportunity to visit a neighbouring housing estate to learn more about the construction work and see the vehicles in action.

The affordable homes being built on Blacktiles Lane in Martlesham are expected to house some of the families and future pupils of schools in the local area including Martlesham Primary Academy. More than 80 children from the school visited the site of the housing development next door.

The visit was co-ordinated by Rose Builders; the contractor building the 47 affordable homes on behalf of Hastoe Housing Association. Working with the Academy, Apprenticeship Co-ordinator Alan Bridgman and Site Manager Jonathon Crouch, developed a full programme of activities for the children including an introduction to health and safety, a talk on the development process and watching the operation of a digger, a dumper, and a forklift. Students ranging from 4-11 were also able to experience at firsthand what it was like sitting on some of the machinery being used on the construction site.

Martlesham Primary Academy itself is being refurbished in readiness for a potential expansion following an identified need by Suffolk County Council.

Alan Bridgeman, Apprenticeship Co-Ordinator at Rose Builders, said: "We were delighted to host Martlesham Primary Academy at our construction site. Our team was on hand to escort the pupils around the site showing them the different stages of build with the crowning glory having an opportunity to sit on some of the plant machinery and see them in action. We're hopeful we have some budding construction workers in the making!"

Emma Churchman, Head Teacher at Martlesham Primary Academy, said: "The children had a fantastic time visiting the housing development. They had a tour of the site and saw large machinery in action. They also got to visit a house that was being built and could identify the different rooms. It was a super learning experience for the children."

Mike Cramp, Regional Development Manager at Hastoe, said: "It was great to see so many young people on site, taking advantage of a hands-on learning experience, and to see them all have such a good time."

Works began on the site in October 2023 and the 47 homes are expected to be completed towards the middle of 2025. All homes are being built to a high standard of energy efficiency and will include renewable energy air-source heat pumps and electric car charging points.

Ends

For more information or additional photographs please contact:

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- Alex Leader, Rose Builders on 01206 394057 or aleader@rosebuilders.co.uk

Notes to Editor

- **Photos:**
 1. Jonathon Crouch (left) and Alan Bridgman (right) with pupils outside house
 2. Alan Bridgman giving a talk on Health & Safety
 3. Jonathon Crouch and pupils on a Roller
 4. Jonathon Crouch and pupils watching Digger demonstration
- **Martlesham Primary Academy**
<https://martleshamacademy.org/>
- **Rose Builders**

Rose Builders is a traditional family-run firm of builders, contractors and developers established in c.1896. Today, the company has a workforce of over 200, supplemented by specialist subcontractors. It works across a wide spectrum of sectors, including commercial, industrial, leisure, education, housing and healthcare and carry out new build, refurbishment and extension projects. It is one of the leading construction companies in East Anglia.

<https://rosebuilders.co.uk/>
- **Hastoe Housing Association**

Hastoe is an award-winning housing association that owns and manages over 7,500 rented, shared ownership and leasehold homes across 70 local authority areas and 300 villages in England. Its homes are spread across the south of England from Norfolk to Devon. Hastoe holds charitable status and supports both rural and urban communities by providing affordable and environmentally sustainable homes for local people.

<https://www.hastoe.com>
- **Housing development**

The development consists of a total of 47 affordable homes, plenty of open space, a new play area and a 28-space car park for joint use by Martlesham Primary Academy and the Parish Council to enable better access to the adjacent Jubilee play space.

24 homes for social rent:

 - 2 x 1-bed bungalows
 - 4 x 1-bed houses
 - 12 x 2-bed houses
 - 6 x 3-bed houses

23 homes for shared ownership:

 - 4 x 2-bed bungalows
 - 13 x 2-bed houses
 - 6 x 3-bed houses