



Packing up: eleven-year-old Jimmy McKay and seven-year-old Jade Baxter help resource technician Mary Bradley to pack up ready for the move
Picture: Steve Barraclough

We're all set to go 'home' after 100 years

By Ellen Widdup

A HALIFAX school is finalising plans to "go home" to the site where it first started more than 100 years ago.

Savile Park Primary School, Moorfield Street, Halifax, is moving to new purpose-built premises on the site of the former Haugh Shaw Secondary School, also on Moorfield Street.

Haugh Shaw was an elementary boarding school in a Victorian building demolished more than two years ago.

Savile Park Primary was built opposite the secondary school in 1903 as an extension for younger children.

Now it is preparing to move back to the original site.

George Owen, head teacher at the school for three years, said the 170 pupils would move into the new L-shaped split-level building on the Haugh Shaw site when the school reopens for the new term on September 13.

"The scheduled finish date for the project is August 16 and staff are looking forward to getting to

Brand new building will be 'stimulating'

know the layout before the children return from their summer holiday," he said.

"While it is sad to be leaving a building we know so well, in some respects we are just going home to where the school originally started."

In 2001 Calderdale Council received £36.4 million to rebuild or refurbish five schools, of which Savile Park Primary was one.

Its new building has a garden, an environmental space for outdoor teaching and a wildlife area.

Younger children will occupy the downstairs rooms, where there will be direct access to the school hall. The main entrance will be off Eldroth Street.

Mr Owen said: "The building we have been in for more than 100 years is now well past its sell-by date, with crumbling walls, peeling paint and roofing which

has needed repairing for about 20 years.

"The new building is newly decorated and furnished and has more space and facilities available to create a stimulating environment for our pupils."

Mr Owen had a lot of input into the design and scale of the building and has worked closely with architect Aedas, of Huddersfield.

"I am constantly popping in to see how the project is progressing," he said. "It is all very exciting."

A time capsule has been placed in the foundations of the new building containing memories of pupils from the school dating back 100 years.

It was organised by the school last year for their centenary.

Pupils are planning an end of era disco and farewell assembly before they leave for the summer.