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Launch of new play and cultural space at St Matthew's School Cambridge

**Wed 27 November 7.15pm
St Matthew's Primary School
19 Norfolk Street
Cambridge CB1 2LD**

A Cambridge based award winning performance company and a London architectural practice have collaborated with pupils at a Cambridge primary school to create a new cultural and play space for the school that opens later this month.

30 Bird and architects public works worked with pupils at St Matthew's Primary School in the city's Norfolk St to design The Factory. This is the first of five structures to be built by this unique partnership of performance makers, pupils and architects. Titled MUD it is a key part of a long-term project linked to the redevelopment of the school premises. The structures are designed to be outdoor play structures and also to house arts and cultural events open to the public - playgrounds for imagination, fun and creativity that are open to all.

Over an 18 month period 30 Bird and public works worked closely with pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and the surrounding community, capturing their stories and triggering their imaginations. The children actively participated in the architectural design process.

When asked about the project, a St Matthew's pupil said "*We've never done anything like this before. I wish we could do more*"

The Factory will launch on Wednesday 27 November at 7.15pm with music from the school choir and Mawson Street Community Orchestra.

There will be a photo/interview opportunity with pupils, Head Teacher Tony Davies and artists from 30 Bird and public works earlier in the day between 1.30pm and 3pm and we hope you can attend. Please contact Claire Summerfield as above to confirm.

MUD is five new spaces for playing, thinking, teaching and experimenting designed by and for children.

MUD is supported by Arts Council England, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, St Matthew's Primary School, Mouchel, and Kier

www.30bird.org

<http://www.publicworksgroup.net>

<http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk>

Further information, image and interview requests contact:

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Notes to Editor

30 Bird creates absurd, darkly comic work for curious minds. Our award winning performance work is often created for non-theatrical spaces. We want our audiences to have a direct relationship with our work; to engage, to participate and to be surprised. Each one of our projects is unique - no one project taking the same form as another - and often use the detail of autobiographical stories to explore global issues pertinent to contemporary society.

30 Bird's creative process is a collaborative one working with practitioners from a variety of disciplines: architecture, science, the visual arts, dance, music, theatre and film.

Public works combines participatory art and participatory architectural praxis to question the role of public spaces in the city. Through built structures, participatory methods and events public works reveal social, political and regulatory institutions of public space. Their projects then respond accordingly through more permanent structures and secured partnerships.

St Matthew's Primary School is a thriving school located in the heart of Cambridge, with a new state of the art building to accommodate a growing student population of diverse backgrounds. Their aim is to make learning "inspiring, challenging and fun".