

St. Michael's CE Primary school Report to the Parish Council May 2017

It has been an eventful year in the life of the school.

The long awaited 7th classroom was completed in December 2016 and on the 16th December the children had an extra day's holiday to enable the staff to move 4 classes to their new locations in readiness for the new term in January and so that the temporary classroom could be removed. The foundation stage children are now benefitting from a larger indoor space appropriate to their needs. The foundation stage garden has also been reinstated and now benefits from a larger covered area to enable children to enjoy learning outside even when the sun isn't shining. As well as the classroom, part of the building project was to provide a much needed additional room for small group work which is now being fully utilised. There was also modification made to the year 1 and 2 classrooms and new LED lights were put in 3 classes. The IT provision in 4 classes has also been updated to touch screens.

In addition to the classroom being completed, the year 1 and 2 children were delighted to have new play equipment installed at the front of the school to replace the train and trim trail which were showing signs of rotting.

During the summer holiday the girls and boys toilets were totally refurbished and the children agreed it was a great improvement. Our thanks go to SARINC for providing a grant to cover half of the cost of the project.

We are currently embarking on a project to create a quiet area in the playground for children to sit and draw or play board games or to just talk to each other.

The school currently has 174 children on roll. 21 children will leave in the summer as they move on to secondary school and it is expected that there will be 30 entering the foundation stage in September. The current year 1 and year 5 classes are full with 30 pupils in each.

We celebrated Harvest, Christmas and Easter with services in the church which were well supported by parents, carers and friends. At the end of the summer term KS2 performed the musical Aladdin Trouble for parents, friends, pre – school, Darby and Joan and the younger children in school. FS held a Christmas concert and KS1 performed the Nativity – Born in a Barn.

Forest School has continued for year 1 pupils and the school is grateful to the Parish for allowing this to take place in the Copse. The children thoroughly look forward to their fortnightly visits and the after school forest school club for pupils in years 2 – 6 is very popular.

The children in the choir entertained the Darby and Joan club at one of their meetings in the village hall. Year 5 children took part in the Abingdon and District Schools Music Association concert which was held in the Amey Hall. In January the choir went to the O2 Arena to take part in the Young Voices concert, it is always a great experience for the children to sing with thousands of others. They are now learning songs ready for the Festival of Voices at Dorchester Abbey in June.

This year the school achieved the Sainsbury's School Games Gold Award, which means that our children take part in a wide range of sporting activities both inside and outside of school and compete in a wide range of competitive sports against other schools in the Abingdon partnership and the Vale.

Sporting achievements this year included:

- the girls' football team progressing to the Vale District final again.
- the netball team taking part in the Abingdon Partnership large schools competition.

- Y5/6 taking part in the Abingdon schools swimming gala again and the boys' team getting through to the finals.
- the hockey team reached the Vale semi-finals.
- the boccia team reached the county final.
- The tag rugby team also took part in the annual competition.

The school has supported a variety of charities during the year including: Children in Need, Comic Relief, Book Aid International and the Royal British Legion. Year 6 also attended the service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day.

The school would like to thank Alison Jarratt, who served the school as chair of the governing body for 6 years and came to the end of her term at the end of the last academic year and also Richard Hornsby for serving as a foundation governor. Mr Daniel Ashford is the current chair of governors.

Mrs Spiller retired at the end of the Easter term having been Headteacher since 2009 and teaching in the school since 2000. She had been involved with the school since moving to the village in 1989 as a parent, member of the school association committee and governor before taking up a teaching post there. She would like to express her thanks for the support that the parents, church and village community have given to the school especially during her headship.

The new Headteacher, Mr Paul Atkins, joined the school at the start of the Summer Term. He would like to extend his thanks to the Parish Council for their ongoing support to the school, and is looking forward to working with them in the future.

We would again like to thank those members of the village who come into school to help as volunteers on the governing body and those who help in classes and the many village friends who supported our summer fete, Christmas Fayre and quiz night which raise valuable funds for the school.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone in the community who would like to take an active part in the life of our school.