

2017 Annual Report on Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School for the Annual Parish Assembly

The most significant event in this year has of course been the arrival of Mrs Hannah Beckett as our new Head Teacher. She is proving to be a dynamic and purposeful leader of the school, keen to build on our "Good" inspection in February 2016.

The children have had a particularly exciting year in terms of extra activities, examples being: a very successful Science day, 'Diversity Week' in November (based on India), Sycamore's French day, the elections for School Council, Beech's and Oak's trips to Sea City Museum and also Milestones Living Museum, Forest School, Yew's residential trip to Fairthorne Manor, Willow's trip to Jude's Ice Cream, Sycamore's trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the choir's trip to the O2 Young Voices Festival, and Ash's trip to Pizza Express. Children have taken part in tournaments for football and high fives. A theatre group visited to give an anti-bullying presentation. During 'Enterprise Week' the children were encouraged to borrow money to set up businesses to make and sell goods at the PTA Christmas Fair. And, as usual, Easter and Christmas were marked by services and performances both in church and in the school.

Results continue to be pleasing. In November the school received a letter from the Regional Schools' Commissioner congratulating everyone on the Key Stage 2 results, 90% of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths. The Year 1 phonics test results were also excellent (putting the school in the top 3% nationally).

New dining furniture in the Hall and new equipment in the playground (bought partly with Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers – thank you, all donors) along with lunch clubs run by the children themselves have helped to make lunch-times both more organised and more fun. There are also plans for an outdoor classroom which is being funded partly by the £1500 grant from Parish Council.

The School will enter the new school year with a small budget surplus but there are going to be challenges ahead as small schools will lose out under the proposed Government New Funding Formula. The school have been working with Hampshire Education and Steve Brine to express concerns regarding the consultation. We await the next round of proposals from the government. Whatever happens, rural schools like Twyford St Mary's are going to be hit financially moving forward and we will be aiming to work in partnership with other village organisations, parental volunteers and ensuring that we maximise our revenue from grants and local businesses.

We were sorry to bid farewell to four governors: Nigel Close, Jennifer Laute, Oonagh Harrison and Steve Bailey. They have been replaced by Linda Snoswell, Tim Barker and Helen Witt. Bruce Greig stood down as Chair of Governors last July after putting in many years of hard work and our new Chair is Lucy Hutchin. Thanks are due to all those departing as well as those coming along to shoulder the responsibilities.

All in all, the school is a busy, thriving place, of which the village can be proud.

Lucy Hutchin, Chair of Governors, Twyford St Mary's School