



## ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



### The Headteacher's Review of 2016-2017 & Preview of 2017-2018

The academic year 2016-2017 was an amazingly full and exciting one, with much being achieved by individual pupils, cohorts of pupils and by the school as a whole: spiritually and creatively as part of the Diocesan 'Year of the Bible', chorally at the Chanctonbury and Ashurst Music Festivals, athletically in the Chanctonbury Schools' Cricket and Football Tournaments, and the Horsham Tag Rugby Competition, astutely on the chess boards as finalists in the annual County Chess Tournament, wisely at the Citizenship Programme, tastefully on the Cookery Days at Shoreham College and reflectively at the Y6 pupils' own enactment of The Easter Story at St James' Church in April. Also horticulturally as second place winners for our Bumbles' Garden runner beans and courgettes, in the Ashurst Flower Show at the end of the year- all thanks to the commitment, generosity of spirit and wonderful support of all associated with the school once again.

There were **so** many happy times and thrilling moments, many now forming part of the tradition of the school, and all eagerly anticipated and awaited by pupils, parents, carers and staff alike: FAPS Family BBQ and Easter Egg Hunt, Bikeability Week, Infant Nativity, Swimming at The Towers, Christingle Service at St James' Church and also, way back in September, the three school Sponsored Walks for all pupils along the River Adur, singing, praying and thanking God for the bounty of autumn.

There was the amazing performance by the whole school of 'RED RIDING HOOD' at Christmas, the seven class 'Curriculum Visits' to places of interest including Arundel Castle, Brighton Museum and Preston Manor, the Y5&Y6 Residential Visit to SWANAGE, seven Parent Consultation Mornings/Afternoons, five Open Afternoons, three Sharing Assemblies, two Leavers' Services AND representation once again in the annual Ashurst Flower Show, as mentioned above. MANY, if not ALL of the above, feature in your 'favourite moments and events of 2016-2017, cited in your termly COMMENT FORMS and annual EVALUATION FORMS.

The school's popular website reported happily on all of the above throughout 2016-2017 and received high praise for keeping everyone informed. Thank you Mrs Hedley!

The academic year also saw the 'retirement' of long-serving classteacher, Mrs Robins, after seventeen years of wonderful service and commitment to the school. Happily, we understand Mrs Robins is still going to be available to support the school on various occasions throughout forthcoming years - for which we are truly delighted.

The school had occasion to be proud of the academic progress, achievement and performance of all Ashurst pupils in 2017, especially those subject to the government's formal statutory assessment at the end of Early Years, Y1, Y2 and Y6, mindful of the impact and effect of the school's small cohort sizes on overall school results, in terms of percentages.

At the end of 2017, all eight FS pupils achieved a 'Good Level of Development' in the DfE 'Early Learning Goals', a significant number of Y1 pupils completed the DfE 'Y1 Phonics' test successfully and an equally significant number of the ten Y2 pupils 'met and exceeded' the governments' nationally 'expected standard' in the DfE 'Reading' and 'Mathematics' KS1 SAT tests. The school was very pleased with the performance of its eight Y6 pupils in 2017, especially set against national 'expected standards' in each of the three separate subject areas assessed. All eight Y6 pupils made good and very good individual progress in all subjects tested, and in each separately, and set against respective individual prior attainment (although seemingly no comparisons with testing pre-2016 can be made).

We understand that details of individual school's Y6 'Pupil Progress Measures' will not be published nationally again for schools with fewer than eleven pupils eligible for SAT testing. This same STATEMENT can also be found on the school's own website, as is statutorily required.

The impact of the school's strong spiritual ethos and caring environment, the personalised approach to teaching - which includes that of the Headteacher with Y6 pupils in Spring and Summer terms annually - and the involvement of pupils in how to learn effectively, are significant factors in the success of all pupils and especially those in receipt of Pupil Premium (the school's ANNUAL STATEMENT on PUPIL PREMIUM can also be found on the Ashurst website).

According to the formal and informal responses of parents, pupils and friends, to ALL of the many school events and functions, 2016- 2017 was another SUPERB academic year!

### **2016 -2017 - *in more detail:***

A number of Ashurst pupils across the school attended Chanctonbury Schools' 'Enrichment Days'. Y5 pupils attended weekly after-school 'Masterclasses' in Maths and Technology at Steyning Grammar School in Spring 2017 and also took part in the Horsham District 'Citizenship Challenge' in June.

The parents of Reception pupils came in to school to observe lessons and discuss YR teaching and learning practices with the classteacher. The parents of Y2 and Y6 pupils, respectively, came in to school in Spring to learn more about the end of KS1 and KS2 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests) and Y2 and Y6 parents came in to school in July to receive the results of their respective children.

Parents Miss Leese, Miss Fish, Mrs Preston, Mrs Murphy and Governors Mrs Jesse and Mrs Timms supported pupils in school, mainly in reading. Parent Mrs Garnett helped to organise Bumbles' Garden - with professional support from parent Mr Marshall and towards the end of Spring/beginning of Summer from parent (and now French teacher) Mrs Scadding-Hunt too. Parent Mrs Bricknell organised the purchase of new school uniform and Chairman, Mrs Woods, organised the sale of second-hand uniform. We thank all of them for their hard work and huge contribution to the life of the school.

The school's PE/Sport programme for pupils from Y1-Y6, at Dalesdown Gym from October to March and on the Recreation Ground at other times, with specialist coaching and teaching, as appropriate, proved VERY popular and equally successful. Pupils enjoyed participating in a range of school and inter-school events, competitions and tournaments including: Lancing College Football Tournament, Henfield Football Tournament, Coldwaltham Football Tournament, Horsham Tag Rugby Competition and Henfield Cricket Tournament, YR - Y6 Gymnastics Programme, Swimming at The Towers Y1-Y6 from October to March, Multi Skills, Athletics & Sports for Y1&2. Horsham Leisurelink and classteacher, Mrs Sansbury provided after-school seasonal PE/Sports lessons for all pupils from Y1 to

Y6 throughout the year AND former Ashurst teacher, Mr Malsbury, organised another highly successful Sports Day which had to be moved from early to late July due to weather conditions.

As required by the DfE, a STATEMENT on the school's use of its PE/SPORTS GRANT can be found on the website.

Throughout 2016-2017, in accordance with respective School Development/Improvement Plans (SDP/SIP), pupil progress in English and Maths was closely monitored and evaluated. Members of staff continued to take part in the *moderating of pupils' independent writing*, with others from the Chanctonbury Group of Schools, to ensure consistency of judgements.

There were regular meetings of the network of Steyning & Chanctonbury School Headteachers, and of subject coordinators from individual schools.

There were regular meetings of the school's Full Governing Body and formal in-school 'Monitoring Visits' made by them during the year, notably in Autumn and Spring terms and specifically seeking to monitor, evaluate and measure the school's 'distinctive Christian character and values' through observations of Collective Worship, including those led by pupils, and RE. Governors came in to observe lessons, look at pupils' work, talk to staff and the Head; and to formally report back to the Full Governing Body, thereby holding the leadership and management *to account*. Monitoring also included that undertaken by Governor, Mr Shoosmith, as part of the government 'Safeguarding and Prevent Strategy'. There was full and effective use of the computerised 'Governors' Virtual Office' (GVO) set up by them in 2012-2013. The Chanctonbury Schools' Governance Group (CNoS), of local Headteachers and their respective Chairs of Governors, also established in 2013, met to discuss various issues including the future funding of all our schools. Governors from the school's finance committee met with the LA at the end of the academic year and agreed a recovery plan for the school's budget from September 2017 onwards.

Visitors to the school were many and included: LA Adviser Tanya Davis - Munro in Spring and Summer terms to undertake Monitoring & Reporting Visits (especially in the latter term, prioritising the school's Early Years all-year-round outdoor play provision) , Diocesan Adviser Gill Bradnam in

Spring and Summer terms to undertake Monitoring & Reporting Visits, Education Consultant Christine Hatton to undertake the review of the HT PM 2015-2016 and objective/target-setting meeting for HT PM 2016-2017 (with appointed governors present at all of the aforementioned Visits) December 2016, other representatives from the LA and Diocese, plus specialist companies, to look into future outdoor all-year-round covered play provision for our Early Years pupils - notably following the visit of LA Adviser Tanya Davis-Munro in Summer and her subsequent Report at the end of term - School Nurse, NHS Physiotherapist, lay preacher Mrs Croft and new Rector Father Mark.

The school thanked Dalesdown, Horsham Leisurelink, The Towers' Convent, and Shoreham College for their wonderful support throughout 2016-2017, which once again included use of respective gyms, cookery and swimming facilities; and minibuses for transport to and from the same and for school visits.

During the academic year, pupils planned and organised a number of events to raise funds for: Christian Aid, the Christian Mission in Sierra Leone (Leavers' Service, Lancing), the Rocking Horse Appeal, BBC 'Children in Need', the Animal Sanctuary at Church Knowle, Dorset - the continuing adoption of 'Neville' the school's black Portuguese Pot Belly Pig! And also in response to pupils' wishes, the adoption of a **fifth** Silverback Gorilla in Rwanda!

The 'Pupils' Voice' (part of regular Sharing Assemblies) praised: School trips, the Christmas Party, Football, Rugby, Rounders and Cricket Competitions, Cookery lessons, Sports Day and the now, firmly - established end-of-term Ashurst Pupils' Talent Show!

The Pupils' Noticeboard, in the main corridor, featured, amongst other things in 2016-2017, various competitions, details of our adopted animals and LOTS of fund-raising ideas.

Parent/Carer Annual Evaluations (and Pupil Annual Evaluations too!) sang the praises of: all school visits, SPONSORED WALKS, Open Afternoons, Sharing Assemblies, the Christmas Production, Music Festivals, Swanage Visit, Cookery Lessons, Sports Day, Dalesdown and PE provision AND all of the many and various FAPS' events and functions, especially the Barn Dance in Autumn 2016 and Easter Egg Hunt in 2017.

The AMAZING support from the 'Friends of Ashurst Primary School' (FAPS) was VERY MUCH appreciated throughout 2016-2017 and included: art materials/resources especially for the Diocesan Year of the Bible Competition, provision of Cups, Shields and Awards, Christmas presents from Santa to the children at their Christmas Party and costume material for the Christmas Production, strawberry teas on Sports Day, the essential 10% contribution towards the Aided *status* of the school building and premises and continuing support towards the school's *almost-completed fund-raising for SCHOOL HOUSE ROOFING PROJECT*.

We thank everyone for making 2016-2017 such a wonderful year for all pupils.

### **A PREVIEW of 2017-2018**

There is much excitement for all that is planned for pupils for 2017-2018:

- Further discussion and consultation with the LA and other specialists regarding the school's all-year-round outdoor play provision for Early Years pupils
- The harvesting of Bumbles Garden and the anticipated whole school enjoyment of home-made pumpkin soup - AGAIN!
- Consultation with parents by members of the governing body as part of its SIAMS monitoring, reflecting upon what makes Ashurst CE Primary the distinctively Christian school it is.
- Use of the school's WEBSITE to include emailing/updating respective parents/carers regarding events and changes at short notice such as postponement of Football Club/sports fixture due to bad weather.
- Formal 'GOVERNOR VISITS TO SCHOOL': monitoring practices, policies and procedures, reporting back to FGB and holding the L&M *to account*.
- Ensuring the effective use of the school's PE/SPORTS GRANT 2017-2018
- Continuing to develop and enrich the strong association with ST JAMES' CHURCH. Special Sunday Services for HARVEST FESTIVAL, MOTHERING SUNDAY & ROGATION SUNDAY are set to continue starting with HARVEST SERVICE at ST JAMES' CHURCH on SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER at 10.30am - especially in light of the arrival of new rector Father Mark.

- The production by pupils in Y3&4 once again of the school's REMEMBRANCE SERVICE on 9/10th NOVEMBER.
- Continuing the moderating of pupils' work in school and across schools to ensure consistency of standards.
- Ensuring the effective use of **PUPIL PREMIUM** funding to enable the school to continue teaching in relatively small classes across the school. Please see website: **STATEMENT**.
- The continuation of daily **FREE SCHOOL MEALS** for all infant pupils
- Continuing to find out more about **Kotukala School in The Gambia, its present and future, through the charity PAGEANT**.
- The prospect of **two residential Field Study Visits to SWANAGE** in 2017-2018, by Y5 in September 2017 and by Y6 in June 2018 - due largely to the logistics of increasing class sizes.
- Continuation of **PE & GAMES lessons at DALESDOWN** for all Ashurst pupils from Y1-Y6 and specialist-taught **SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE TOWERS' CONVENT** for all pupils from Y1 - Y6, from October half term 2017 to end of Spring term 2018
- The continuation of **COOKERY DAYS AT SHOREHAM COLLEGE** for pupils in Y5&Y6 and cookery lessons 'on-site' for all other pupils.
- Continuation of Chanctonbury Locality Schools' **ENRICHMENT DAYS for PUPILS**
- The Headteacher to have focus groups of pupils across the school to further enrich and enhance individual ability and agility in **MENTAL MATHS & REASONING SKILLS**.

## **STAFFING & TEACHING STRUCTURE 2017-2018**

### **FS & KEY STAGE ONE:**

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pockett (both full-time)

Mrs Smith: Y1&2 Specialist ART & RE

Mrs Pockett: FS Specialist, Computing YR and FS KS1 Music

Mrs Hedley: Specialist Computing Y1&2

Mrs Scadding-Hunt: French weekly Y1 & Y2

The Towers: Swimming Y1 & Y2 *blocked sessions*

Dalesdown, dependent upon weather conditions from Autumn to Spring Y1&Y2

## **KEY STAGE TWO:**

### **Y3&Y4:**

Miss Simpson: (Monday to Friday part-time) Music Coordinator.

Mrs Smith: RE, DT and Art

Mrs Sansbury: PE

Mrs Hedley: Specialist Computing

PE/Gym/Games: Dalesdown, classteacher and Mrs Sansbury

The Towers: Swimming

Mrs Scadding-Hunt: French

### **Y5&Y6:**

Mrs Sansbury (full-time)

Mrs Sansbury: Specialist PE/SPORT

Mrs Hedley: Specialist Computing

Dalesdown dependent on weather conditions Oct - April

The Towers: Swimming

Mrs Scadding-Hunt: French

### **PLUS:**

Mrs Croft: specialist support in RE.

Mr Smith: specialist flute teacher.

Mrs Williams: *across* the school in Mathematics, and with Y6.

Mrs Hedley: School Office Admin. & Premises, E-Learning Manager

Mrs Ixer: Bursar & School Office Administrator

### **CLASS TOPICS** this year include:

#### ***FS & KS1 CYCLE TWO***

***AUTUMN:*** 'FAMILIES, FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS' and 'FIRE & DRAGONS'

***SPRING:*** 'IMPORTANT PEOPLE - FAMOUS FIRSTS' & 'CHANGE DETECTIVES'

***SUMMER:*** 'UNDER AND OVER THE OCEAN' & 'FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD'

#### ***KS2 Y3 & Y4: CYCLE TWO***

***AUTUMN:*** 'THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN'

***SPRING:*** 'LIVING THINGS AND THE IRON MAN'

***SUMMER:*** 'THE STORY OF ST.MARY'S HOUSE BRAMBER' (LOCAL HISTORY STUDY).

#### ***KS2 Y5 & Y6: CYCLE ONE***

***AUTUMN:*** 'ANCIENT GREEKS'

***SPRING:*** 'REACHING THE PEAKS'

***SUMMER:*** 'LOCAL WATCH'

School visits are planned to support topic/project work, wherever possible.

More details and information on the school's **CURRICULUM FROM SEPTEMBER 2017** will be found on the school's **website**.

A Twelfth 'Y5&Y6 MUSIC FESTIVAL' for Chanctonbury Schools and 'WHOLE SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL' for Ashurst Primary, and an EIGHTH Chanctonbury Schools' 'Y2 MUSIC FESTIVAL', are all planned hopefully WITH MRS HARWELL for **SPRING 2018**. AND another **ASHURST MASTERCHEF/BAKE-OFF COMPETITION** is planned for **SUMMER 2018!**

Due to pupil numbers and logistics, a **Y5 Residential Field Studies** visit to **SWANAGE** is booked for September 2017 and a **Y6 Residential Field Studies** for **June 2018**. There will be special presentation opportunities for respective parents as appropriate.

**Teams** are set to represent the school in: the annual **Football Tournament (Y5&Y6)** in **October 2017**, the **senior pupils Tag Rugby Tournament** in **March 2018**, the **senior pupils' Cricket Competition** in **June 2018** and, of course, the **Annual County Chess Competition 2017-2018**. Plus various inter-school sporting events for **ALL** year groups.

Pupils in the upper school will continue to produce the termly Newsletters for the '**Ashurst Parish Magazine**', the '**Annual Y6 Pupils' Report to Governors and Parents 2017-2018**' and to **meet with Governors at the FGB at the end of Summer term 2018**.

There are **after-school clubs** in: **Chess, Football, Rounders, Athletics and Cricket** planned throughout the year.

Ashurst parents are to continue supporting in school weekly with reading in both **KS1 and KS2**.

**MRS CROFT** will be supporting Assemblies and the teaching of **RE** in school in the **Autumn and Spring** terms again this year.

The **NHS FRUIT & VEG SCHEME** is set to continue throughout **2017-2018**.

Respective senior pupils are to undertake the '**Y5 CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME**' in Horsham and '**Y6 BIKEABILITY PROGRAMME**' at The Towers in the Spring term.

Throughout 2017-2018, the school intends to continue monitoring pupil progress across the curriculum and especially in Maths (with special focus on 'Fractions' and development of pupils' 'Reasoning' skills) and English (with special focus on spelling and the development of writing skills particularly editing and proofreading). School will be working with all schools across the Chanctonbury Locality once again to share and disseminate effective practice. A copy of **School Development/Improvement Plans 2017-2018**, with all priorities, can be found at the 'Visitors' Desk' in School House.

Within the school's LOCAL OFFER on the website, there is information for parents and carers on the availability of support for Locality Schools and Chanctonbury families with child-care, breakfast and after-school clubs.

We look forward, as always, to working closely with parents to ensure a strong home-school *partnership* throughout 2017-2018.

**For those *new* to the school:**

- A copy of the Annual *Review & Preview* is sent home in September every year by pupil post, with Dates for the School Year - including **INSET DAYS** - and can be found on the school's website.
- **Home-School Partnership Newsletters** are sent home at the beginning of each half term (by email) and posted on the school's infant and junior notice boards and on the school's website, together with copies of the current *Review & Preview*.
- The school's website has a *Curriculum link* which is updated with pictures and information on what we have been doing and on what we plan to do.
- There are **Sharing Assemblies, Open Afternoons** and various school performances for **ALL** parents and friends to attend.
- There is a **HOMEWORK POLICY from 2015** (also on the web site) with advice and guidance on how to support children out of school hours and **Homework surgeries held by teachers** available after/before school to respective parents and pupils.
- There are opportunities for new parents to come in to school to observe lessons and to discuss classroom practices.

- There are opportunities for all parents to come in to school formally, to discuss their child/children's progress with their respective classteachers.
- There are opportunities on formal school **'Comment Forms'** for all parents to provide feedback on school events and occasions.
- In the Autumn term, parents receive a **'Report on Parents' Annual Evaluation'** of the previous academic year.

The school's Ofsted Report of March 2007, DfE 'Letter to Parents' of July 2010 and Diocesan Inspection Report of November 2012 are available on the school's website.

We trust that if parents have any questions/concerns relating to their children's education that they will contact the school immediately. There is an *open door policy*, which means the school is always available to you.

As part of normal practice, the Headteacher is always on the playground **before** school starts everyday and teachers are always on the playground **at the end of school** each day, to discuss urgent matters/concerns and/or to share children's on-going work, as appropriate. All 'Newsletters to Parents' finish: 'Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns.'

**THIS AUTUMN** we have:

- **A very warm welcome to FATHER MARK** in school on a regular basis
- **The continuation of the school's reflection on the 'LITURGICAL YEAR'**, captured on canvasses around the Library window by pupils working together on special **ART DAYS**
- **The continuation of PUPILS' OWN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**, led by Y4 pupils on **6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** and by Y6 pupils on **29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**
- **HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS** at St James' Church on **SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**
- **Three 'SEPTEMBER SPONSORED WALKS'** starting with Y3/4 on **FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

- An **INTRODUCTION TO FAPS** for new parents - early in September.
- **THE FAMILY BARN DANCE** on **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH**
- The **HARVESTING of BUMBLES GARDEN 2017** - and planning for **SPRING/SUMMER 2018**
- **Y3&4 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** for pupils, staff and invited guests in school on **9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**.
- **'BBC CHILDREN IN NEED' £1.00 Non-Uniform Day FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**
- **WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**
- **RECEPTION CLASS/INFANT NATIVITY**

As always, we look forward to working together to make this academic year another very happy, successful and rewarding one for all at Ashurst Primary.

**Mrs J A Williams, Headteacher. 1st September 2017**

The **'2016-2017 Annual Report to Parents and Governors'** by Y6 Pupils can be found on the school's website, together with all Newsletters and 'Reviews'.

\*Website address: <http://www.ashurstcofe-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk>

Do please visit and e-mail the school with your comments