

Littledean Church of England Primary School

Church Street, Littledean, Gloucestershire, GL14 3NL

Telephone: 01594 822171

Fax: 01594 825436

Email: admin@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.littledeanprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @littledeansch



Loving one another, building each other up

July 2020

Governors Annual Report 2020

Obviously this school year has been like no other. The governors would like to take this opportunity to thank all school staff, parents, carers and relatives of Littledean school children for their hard work and commitment throughout the whole year, but especially during the last few months, when we all had to adapt to a completely new way of working under challenging circumstances. The school team did a fantastic job in interpreting and implementing complex and ever changing government guidance, often at very short notice, whilst endeavouring to keep everyone safe. Our heartfelt thanks go out to you all. The way that school pupils took on the challenge was truly inspirational – they are a credit to the school and all who have a role in their lives. This came as no surprise to governors, as the standard of behaviour and the ability shown by children during governor visits is always exemplary, a reflection of how the school approaches their education and development, based on the Christian Values that we believe are so important.

Whilst this was, and continues to be, a very difficult time for many, we would like to pay credit to lockdown school activity:

- The school Twitter account now has more than 100 followers (if you haven't yet signed up yet, please do). Particular thanks need to go to Laura May for her dedication in posting information and replying to all the children's efforts. It was fantastic to see all the hard work (and baking!) children did at home
- Suzanne Webb (Family Support Worker) did sterling work maintaining contact with children and families. Parent governors were especially conscious of the positive impact this had on the children
- Class teachers did a great job posting learning materials online and phoning parents and children – again, this had a very positive impact, maintaining the close bonds developed in school
- For some of the year 6 leavers, the final few weeks of school opening allowed some quality time with friends and teachers before the move to secondary in September. We have no doubt that these will be treasured memories in years to come. At the time of writing, it is unsure when and if other leaver activities will happen, but plans are in place if conditions allow. We give our very best wishes to all leavers as they take their next steps in life
- Teachers and children were able to use the forest school area, gardens and other play areas for outdoor learning activities. It was good to see the revamped pond area getting regular use

Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Despite the fact that many of the normal school activities had to be cancelled, there have been some highlights from the rest of the school year:

- The school now has a new tag line: *'Loving one another, building each other up'*. This was developed after extensive work with staff and children. Credit should go to Hayley McGoldrick for the final wording – this truly reflects how children view their experience at Littledean School
- The Young Voices event in January continued to astound all those who participated and attended. The school also had a visit from the NSPCC to talk to children about safeguarding, a sponsored read, a ten week block of iPad music making for Maple class, the Rock Steady concert and of course the Christmas nativity play
- Every Thursday, it was fantastic to see a happy, fluorescent crocodile of children wending its way to the Salvation Army hall for Kids' Church. Thank you to all who facilitate this
- The reception class play area was extensively redeveloped with new surfacing and play equipment
- The Friends group continued to work hard to raise additional funds for the school. The challenge for all of us is to offer our support to them where we can in future, as ultimately this benefits all children in school
- School staff did a great job reviewing and revamping the curriculum across all subjects to meet the requirements of the new Ofsted framework (based around four key principles: The quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development and leadership and management). This was no mean feat and was conducted promptly and professionally. We strongly believe that Littledean School continues to demonstrate the core principles outlined.
- As always, as governors it is an honour to be able to go into school and see the children enjoying their learning, helping one another and living respectfully together. Link governors (governors having responsibility for a specific curriculum area, for example English) visited school to meet subject leads. Learning Walks were somewhat curtailed, but we did look at school values and ethos (represented by the core Christian values of the school) and were impressed with how these were ingrained in the knowledge and behaviour of the children
- Balancing the school budget remained challenging, but we managed to do so, (under the very able leadership of Wendy Worgan, school business manager), whilst maintaining current teaching provision, school infrastructure maintenance and equipment needs. Finance decisions are not made lightly and we always put the needs of the children at the centre of our decision making processes. Hopefully financial support for education will be much improved in future
- The pre-school underwent some changes in the last year and Alice Pearson is now lead for the Early Years and Foundation Stage provision (EYFS) for the school, incorporating both Little Acorns and Holly Leaves (reception). Alice's professionalism, commitment and ability in reviewing teaching and learning has been outstanding. Many thanks to Rimmini and Sachelle (pre-school assistants) for all their hard work during the year – It is clear that the children very much enjoy their time in pre-school,

Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

a reflection of their efforts. We also said goodbye to Michelle Janetta who also worked in the pre-school and would like to thank her for all of her hard work.

- The school now has a new handyman, Peter Smith. He will be doing lots of the smaller scale, often unsung, but important maintenance jobs on the school premises. His appointment should lead to some financial savings. We look forward to seeing the results of his efforts in September

We would like to end by saying a big thank you to each and every one of you for the support you give to the school. To all the staff for their tireless energy and commitment to ensuring the school environment is nurturing, safe and inspiring for our children. To Mrs McGoldrick who works hard all year to support the staff and run the school so effectively and efficiently. To you the parents, carers and relatives for continuing to support your children. But most of all to the children, who show us time and again what well rounded ambassadors they are for the Littledean school community.

As governors, we will continue to do our best to support the school in all it does, and we look forward to seeing continued success for, and from, the children.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Reverend Mike Barnsley | (Chair of governors) |
| Emma Nice | (Local Authority governor) |
| Kelly Hall | (Parent governor) |
| Mike Dunton | (Parent governor) |
| Jim Swanson | (Parent governor) |
| Richard Prescott | (Associate governor) |
| Linda Blagg | (Foundation governor) |
| Jenny Hughes | (Co-opted governor) |