

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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People with time for Children

15th July 2019

Governors Annual Report 2019

As the end of another school year approaches we are able to take a few moments to reflect back over some of the things that have happened this year at Littledean C of E Primary School. There have been challenges along the way which have been overcome by the continuing hard work of all staff, governors and children but more often we are in the fortunate position of being able to celebrate success through the achievements of the children who work so hard and continue to make the school a great place to grow and learn.

As everyone is aware we are in a period of time where there are cuts to funding everywhere we look and this is no less so with schools. We have had to make some very difficult decisions around the budget this year and unfortunately this has resulted in having to say goodbye to 3 members of staff. Pam Bayliss, Fay Lyons and Birgitta Engel will not be returning to the school in September and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work and commitment while they have been with us. These decisions are not made lightly and we always put the needs of the children at the centre of our decision making processes.

Throughout the year we have invited the teaching staff to attend governor meetings to talk to us about the specific subjects that they lead on. This has been extremely informative and we have had to extend the length of our meetings as these presentations have created so much conversation. We have linked the curriculum subject being presented to a Learning Walk so that we can see the subjects come alive in the classroom. The children have been a real pleasure to work with during the Learning Walks and are always eager to talk to us about their learning, what they enjoy and what would be better if...! It is an honour to be able to go into school and see the children enjoying their learning, helping one another and living the Christian Values that we believe are so important.

As always the children have been involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities this year including meeting a Paralympic athlete, getting involved with a Book Swop, a sponsored read, Rock Steady concerts, Young Voices concert, movie night and meeting the diocesan sheep. Those are only a few of the many exciting activities the children have taken part in and we are sure they have told you about many more.

We had the pleasure of meeting with the School Council this year as they presented to us about their election campaigns and subsequent election. It was a very interesting afternoon and the children had many great ideas about what they would be doing this year. The School Council decided that they would like to focus on one charity over the next 2 years so they went away and researched a number of charities which they presented to the rest of the school. The school then voted and decided that their

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

charity would be Well Found. A great choice and we look forward to hearing about the different ways they raise money for them over the next 2 years.

There have been some exciting developments around the school site this year starting with the building work which took place last summer to transform the Infant area. With the new doors leading to the outdoor space, the extension of the space in Y1&2 classroom and the more open space provided in R/Y1 area, the learning environment has been transformed to the benefit of the children and adults who teach and care for them.

Outside has also benefited from some additional work taking place. We are very grateful to have a school pond back in place after extensive re-development work. The children are enjoying watching new wildlife set up home in the pond and it is great to be able to let them see first-hand what these creatures look like and how they behave in their natural environment.

We have also had a new Activity Trail installed on the grass at the front of the school and the children have been enjoying climbing and swinging their way across it.

Attendance continues to be a focus for the governing body as we believe that it is important for the children to attend school regularly and on time each day to get the most out of their time at Littledean. This year our target was 96.5% and we ended the year 94.9% this is below our target and we would very much like to raise this next year. If you need support with attendance please do let the school know. The governing body continues to maintain that holidays should not be taken during school time and this year 268 sessions have been lost to unauthorised holidays. This is down from last year so we thank you for your continuing support with this.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Friends Committee who have continued to work hard to raise money for the school through various different events throughout the year. The money that these events raise goes towards paying for things like the coach for the children to attend the Christmas Pantomime and the discos that the children all enjoy so much. We are very grateful to the Friends for all their efforts and continual support of our school.

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 the staff for their tireless energy to ensure 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 for continuing to support your children to attend school regularly. But most of all to the children who show us time and again that working hard and playing hard really is a mixture for success.

Head teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick