

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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Loving one another, building each other up

18th July 2022

Governors Annual Report 2022

As ever, governors extend a **MASSIVE** thank you to **ALL** school staff, parents, families and carers, pupils, and anyone and everyone involved with Littledean C of E School. Your efforts inspire us to continue to do our best for the whole school community.

This year it has been great for everyone to get back to some sort of post covid routine, though it wasn't until April that this was finally possible. In the last few years there has been significant disruption to all pupils, so the school has been working hard to catch up with their missed learning and social development, but it will take time for this to bear fruit. Within a full curriculum offer and a programme of broader enrichment activities, particular focus this year and next was and will be on phonics, early years social development, writing, reading and maths.

To help develop social skills, hampered by covid related 'isolation', the school focused on the school Christian values for life of ***friendship, resilience, and courage***. We are extremely fortunate to have Suzanne Webb, Mental Health Lead, with support from Sam Worgan and Debbie Grey, helping children develop that resilience. Thank you.

Hayley McGoldrick, Laura May and Wendy Worgan, the senior leadership team in school, deserve much credit for their hard work and dedication throughout the year: supporting children, families and staff at Littledean; teaching; running the school; but also providing professional mentoring to other schools in the Forest of Dean as much respected colleagues. As governors we can see what fantastic staff we have across the **WHOLE** school: dedicated to the children but for example also finding time to support the next generation of student teachers with practical experience and placements.

Training and development remains critically important for the school, so well done to all staff with their activities this year, and to Zoe Haynes in gaining a first class Master's Degree in Education with Proficiency in Special Education Needs.

Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

Teaching and learning

The school continued to strive to improve the education of pupils and build their emotional resilience. Curriculum subject leaders were given extra time this year to develop their subjects, working across year groups and subject areas to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of teaching. For all subjects, the school has a plan that is themed around the three “I’s”:

| Intent | Implementation | Impact |
|--------|----------------|--------|
|--------|----------------|--------|

This is the context to our scrutiny of teaching and learning, which includes subject leader presentations to governors. For example Zoe Haynes leads on computing across the whole school, and designed and implemented a new curriculum this year, based on resources from the Odyssey Teaching School Hub (<https://www.odysseytsh.org/>). This was well received by staff and children.

School enrichment activities (including sports and exercise)

Various enrichment activities were offered this year (see below). Two particular highlights were to see pupils from Juniors helping the Infants with their reading as part of the world book day activities; and Jacob English working children hard in P.E. whilst maintaining a fun atmosphere! Jacob was also employed to do targeted reading with children, so another big thank you to him, he has been a real asset for the school.

- Morning Bagel club
- Science Day – The Science of Christmas
- After school clubs run by Prostars (sports activities)
- *Young Voices* concert in Birmingham (<https://youngvoices.co.uk/>)
- *Rock steady* concert (<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>)
- *Skip2bFit* whole school workshop (<https://skip2bfit.com/>)
- *World Book Day* Celebrations (<https://www.worldbookday.com/>) and book fair
- Collective worship, with the Reverend Mike Barnsley and Richard Prescott of the Salvation Army heavily involved
- Godly play – Chestnut class
- Art after school club
- Music lessons and choir
- *Sports for Champions* visit from Jaydon Paddock
- Experience Easter run by Cinderford Churches
- Queen’s Jubilee Activities and picnic



- Infants nativity play
- Online panto
- School summer play
- Gloucestershire Rugby club taster session
- Author Visit – Andy Seed
- *Chance to Shine* – Cricket Day
- 30 days wild challenge
- Sports day

We are also indebted to the **Salvation Army** for all the support they provide to the school through Kids' Church and other activities. They also piloted Starfish Mentoring in school, which offers early help focused on emotional health and wellbeing, personal development and life skills.



Littledean School children as Global ambassadors

Wow! What amazing children we have in school, they are an example to us all! Listed below are activities that show how generous and empathetic the school children are. In addition, year 5 and 6 pupils established the *Carbon Footprint* club to consider environmental issues in the school's activities. With many thanks to Pauline Rea-Dickins for the contact, the school are also in the initial stages of a twinning with **St Joseph's School, Kawe, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**. Enormous credit to our fantastic **School Council** in leading pupils with these activities and supporting staff:

- Food bank appeal for harvest
- Remembrance day service and activities
- Children in Holly Leaves made a card for Roy Mills from Cinderford, the last surviving Imjin veteran from the Forest of Dean who celebrated his 90th birthday in November
- Operation Christmas child
- Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal
- Crazy hair for Children in Need
- Year 6 leadership of school worship
- Donations for the Ukrainian people

Parents and Friends of Littledean School

The Friends group have been very active this year (see below), so well done to everyone who has been involved. Please remember you can raise money for the school when you



Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley McGoldrick

shop online (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>), and also see the *Parents and Friends of Littledean School* Facebook page for more information.

- Pop up stalls for mothers and fathers days
- The summer fair
- Sunflower competition
- Pizza evening
- Easter egg hunt in the village



Finances

Rising costs, not supported by sufficient additional funding, continued to put significant pressure on the school budget. Wendy Worgan, School Business Manager, did an exemplary job with governors and the Senior Leadership Team in balancing the accounts. This meant we had to make some difficult decisions, especially around staffing. You can rest assured that we put the needs of pupils first when we make these decisions.

Attendance

Pupil attendance overall was below target this year (90.7% against target of 96.5%), but covid related absences remained significant. Next year there will be a renewed focus on attendance. Missed sessions significantly affect your children's learning.

Staffing

It was good to see Alice Pearson back in school, teaching in Reception. Her professionalism and dedication to the children shines through. We welcomed Elaine Blake as Administration Assistant in the office. We are saying goodbye to some members of staff, Sue Aldred, Cath Ray and Jacob English. We would like to thank them for all of their commitment and hard work and wish them well for the future. Jen Walters, who already teaches maths in the juniors will be moving to teach Holly Berries in September and we wish her all the best with her new role.

Premises

Handyman Pete Smith continued to do sterling work dealing with all those maintenance jobs that go with managing a property. This reduces the workload of school staff, who otherwise would have to spend scarce and valuable time and resources finding contractors to take on what is in reality unattractive work for them. The school have an asset management plan that is reviewed annually to identify priority works for completion. Governors also completed their annual Health and Safety Audit.

“Say hello and wave goodbye”

Of course we welcomed a new group of children into reception, and we said *au revoir* to the year 6 leavers: we wish them all the best for next year, and have no doubt they will be a positive influence in their new schools. We hope they enjoyed the leaver activities this year: The service at Gloucestershire Cathedral; residential in Wiltshire; ten pin bowling and prom. Good luck and go for it!

Governors

Governors completed a skills audit to evaluate current skillset, and help us identify where and how we can improve. Normally a key part of our monitoring of the school is conducted through ‘*Learning walks*’ but these continued to be constrained by Covid this year. In addition each governor acts as a ‘*Link*’ to key curriculum areas, and thus school staff. Link visits continued where possible. We also completed two training sessions:

- Accountability through Monitoring and Challenge
- Preparing for Ofsted

Jenny Hughes resigned as community governor. We thank her for all her efforts in support of the school and offer her our best wishes for the future. We are hopeful for a new appointment in the next school year. Our Clerk to Governors, Nikki Allen, has stepped down from her role due to increased work hours so we will be advertising for a replacement imminently. Again thank you Nikki.

Finally, as Governors, we will continue to do our best to support the school in all that it does, and we pay tribute to **EVERYONE** who contributes. We look forward to seeing continued success for, and from, the children.

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reverend Mike Barnsley | (Chair of governors) |
| Kelly Hall | (Parent governor and vice-chair) |
| Andrew Greenhalgh-Cook | (Parent governor) |
| Jim Swanson | (Parent governor) |
| Richard Prescott | (Associate governor) |
| Pauline Rea-Dickins | (Foundation governor) |

Our school Christian values for life

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Respect | Trust | Truthfulness |
| Forgiveness | Generosity | Friendship |
| Compassion | Service | Justice |
| Courage | Perseverance | Thankfulness |

If not already doing so, please keep up to date with all school activity using the Twitter account: @LittledeanSch

