



# Governors Annual Report 2023

As ever, governors extend a **big** thank you to **everyone** involved with the school, from the senior leadership team and teachers to the teaching assistants, volunteers, friends group, parents / carers of children and the children themselves. Your efforts inspire us to continue to do our best for the whole school community.

Life for most people at the moment is challenging but it is always uplifting to see children at Littledean C of E Primary School, full of life and laughter.

## School staff

Hayley McGoldrick, Laura May and Wendy Worgan, the senior leadership team in school, deserve much credit for their continued hard work and dedication: supporting children, families and staff at Littledean; teaching; running the school; maintaining the school buildings and outdoor areas, but also providing professional mentoring to other schools in the Forest of Dean as much respected colleagues.

We lose some valued staff members this year: Zoe Haynes, Sarah Crowell-Hall, Rachel Orchard and Emma Tattersall, you will all be sorely missed and we wish you success and best wishes for the future. Elaine Blake also left during the school year and we wish her good luck for the future.

Suzanne Webb and Wendy Worgan have both been awarded long service awards from Gloucestershire County Council for 25 years' service at the Local Authority.

## Governors

Governors have been busy reviewing and auditing our skills and evaluating our compliance with statutory and other requirements. Previously we considered all business as a full board in meetings. This became too onerous so this year we have moved to a sub-committee structure (Leadership; Curriculum; and Staffing) allowing more time for sub-committees to analyse and evaluate key elements of school management. We continue to visit the school regularly, have subject leader presentations in governor meetings and have conducted safeguarding training as part of our continuous professional development. We have also done a lot of work analysing our finances using Department of Education benchmarking tools. Schools in the local

area are currently in a challenging situation with falling pupil numbers (a result of demographic changes) affecting finances, not easy to manage during a 'cost of living crisis'. The leadership and management governors have therefore had to take the difficult decision to review class structure and to reduce teaching staff for the next school year.

Pauline Rea-Dickins 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.

## Wraparound care: breakfast club and pre-school

The breakfast club ran for 4 weeks but unfortunately actual did not reflect anticipated demand, so was suspended: we will continue to keep this as an option for the future. On a more positive note the **pre-school will be restarting in September** led by Mrs Powell. An **enormous** thank you to those unsung heroes who helped get this going as it has always been an important part of Littledean School.

**Please continue to promote the pre-school over the summer and ask those interested to contact the school**

## New governors?

We are always looking for new governors and our new Clerk, Ellie Hully is proving exceptional in helping us with this (and other aspects of our role), for example in the development of marketing and induction materials for new governors.

**Could that new governor be you or someone you know?** We are especially interested in people with business and / or financial expertise but all skills and experience would be useful.



## School inspections

We have had our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and Ofsted inspections in the past year. Whilst challenging, these offer useful external scrutiny, another pair of official eyes, to evaluate how we are all doing. Whatever the outcomes of these inspections, we as Governors have 100% confidence in the team at Littledean School to respond positively and they have already done so. **The results give only one snapshot assessment of your children's capabilities: we can see for ourselves every day what bright shining stars they all are.**



The Littledean School star forming nebula

## Ofsted

Whilst we have retained our 'good' grade the inspectors highlighted areas to be worked on before their next visit: a renewed focus on phonics; a curriculum review to ensure knowledge is built sequentially and pupils learn well; and supplementary monitoring and assessment to evaluate the impact of learning. These were things that had already been identified by the school and included in the School Development Plan. Nevertheless, it is helpful to have some external reinforcement of the issues to galvanise action, for example:

- **Phonics development** with input from the Mangotsfield English hub  
<https://www.mangotsfieldprimary.org/Our-School/English-Hub/> (new resources, staff training, targeted guided reading and other support, action plans, monitoring, book swap in the back playground shelter)
- All classes have been doing a weekly **handwriting** lesson with moderation of writing and a staff meeting discussion about barriers
- **Curriculum review** so that now the school is largely using produced schemes of work which have a proven track record of good coverage and clear progression of skills and knowledge, for example:
  - Kapow: <https://www.kapowprimary.com/>
  - TEACH computing: <https://teachcomputing.org/>
  - White Rose for maths: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources>

*Overall there is a **renewed focus on high expectation and standards** in school and governors are working hard to support all the work that is going on to support children in their learning and development.*

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Our SIAMS rating remains as "good" with the inspector reporting amongst other things that *"the well-established Christian vision is at the heart of this school and clearly enables pupils and adults to flourish"*. Again there is always room for improvement so the report recommended that assessment systems and curriculum need some review and refinement. Hayley McGoldrick is already working with Debbie Helme from the Gloucestershire Diocese to create a plan of action.

We also had a visit from the Bishop's Visitor, Angela Anderton who was very impressed and supportive of all that the school and wider community does.

## School collaboration and Multi-academy trusts (MAT)

Littledean school has been a long standing member and leader of the West Gloucestershire Schools Partnership (WGSP): <https://wgsp.education/> and will continue to be so. This is a strong cohesive partnership which provides support and development to all staff and governors within 39 primary schools in the Forest of Dean and surrounding areas, and includes the Gloucester and Forest Alternative Provision School and the Heart of the Forest Special School.

However a staff and governors working party has been created to investigate the options, process and rationale for collaborating with other schools within a more informal or formal structure for example a federation or academy trust. We have had a presentation from a governor whose school has become part of a trust, attended a Diocese of Gloucester conference on Trusts, and are working with some different MATs to evaluate the pros and cons. This is in part a response to government policy, changes in the organisation of schools locally, ongoing financial and resource pressures, but mainly a desire to retain some control of our future and to be prepared for any eventuality. We are very early on in the process and a lot more work is needed – we believe that the Littledean School community is really special and we want to keep it that way but adapt to changing circumstances.

*This work does not mean we are in the process of becoming a Trust or part of one! We are just looking at our options as a school*

## School enrichment activities (including sports and exercise)

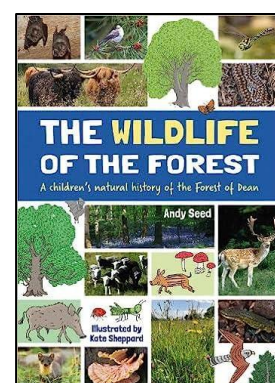
Various enrichment activities were offered this year (see below). Two particular highlights were the work of the school children led by the **Carbon Footprints**; and attending the **Rock Steady concert** and seeing the brilliance of the children who performed: **Wow!** So brave and accomplished.

- Carbon footprints:
  - Street wardens visit - Flowers in garden
  - Local litter pick - Bee day
- Forest school (including year 2 weekly this year)
- Cheerleading
- *iSingPOP* practice sessions and 2 performances at St Ethelbert's Church
- Sports day
- House Captain presentations about new charities that we could support and school vote
- Chestnut Class Visit to the Dean Heritage Centre



The Carbon Footprints in action

- Christmas craft club to make decorations for the Christmas tree for the festival
- Carducci Performance string quartet
- Infant Christmas Play: *'Wriggly Nativity'*
- Chaplins pantomime performance of Aladdin
- Chestnut Class Ukulele Lessons and performance for the whole school and parents
- Rock Steady and Concert: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>
- Dance sessions provided by Progressive Sports for Chestnut and Maple Class
- World Book Day activities: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>
- Music classes
- Socks for Downs Syndrome Day
- Collective worship with much help from the Reverend Mike Barnsley and Richard Prescott of the Salvation Army
- Holly Berries church visit with Mike Barnsley: *'What makes some places sacred to believers?'*
- *Experience Easter* at St Ethelbert's Church
- Chestnut Class Church Visit with Mike Barnsley: *Baptism*
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Piano Recital by Claire Hammond
- Holly Leaves and Holly Berries Visit to the Wye Valley Butterfly Zoo
- Chestnut Class trip to the Palace Cinema to watch *'Mummies'* to bring to a close their unit on Ancient Egypt
- Samba Lessons for Holly Leaves ending with a performance for the school and parents
- Holly Berries visit to the Gloucester Mosque
- Red, White and Blue day for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III (a **massive** thank you to Littledean Parish Council who gave every child a commemorative mug)
- Chestnut Class French Day: *Vive la France!*
- Holly Leaves Percussion Performance
- Chestnut class visit to the Dean Heritage Centre
- Sports for Champions: Jordan Hart
- Author Visit: Andy Seed *"The Wildlife of the Forest"*
- Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral and ten pin bowling
- The Wildlife Trusts "30 days wild"





- KNEX Workshop (DT) for Maple Class
- KS2 End of Year Performance
- After-School Clubs
  - Reading Arts and Crafts
  - Cooking
  - Mini- Olympics (Pro-Stars)
  - Construction
  - Super Circuits Multi-Sports (Pro-Stars)

## Salvation Army (SA) - Starfish mentoring

Starfish provides early help, focused on emotional health and wellbeing (including personal development and life skills) for school children. We are indebted to Richard Prescott and all at the school.



## Journeys

An Arts on Prescription programme created by Cinderford Art space (<https://artspacecinderford.org/>) with NHS Gloucestershire and Young Minds Matters to support the mental health of children through creativity: to support and empower those with low level mental health needs; to reduce stress and anxiety; and boost low mood. Thanks as ever to Suzanne Webb, Mental Health lead.



*There will be a New programme starting in the Summer term for adults*

## Volunteers in school

The school are also always interested in volunteers to come in a read with children. They love it!

<https://www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer>

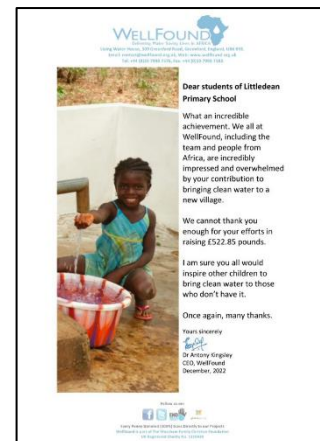


## Attendance

Pupil attendance overall was below target this year (92.1% against target of 96.5%), but an improvement from last year. Missed sessions significantly affect your children's learning.

## Littledean school children as Global ambassadors

Wow! What amazing children we have in school, they are an example to us all! Enormous credit to our fantastic **school council** in leading pupils with these activities and supporting staff.



## Parents And Friends Of Littledean School

A **massive shout out** to Sophie, Marie, Amy and Emma.

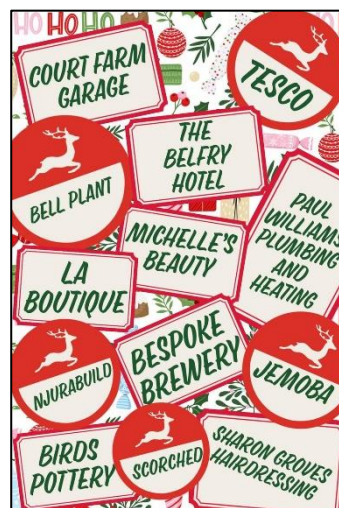
The Friends group have been very active this year (see below), so well done to everyone who has been involved. Please remember you can raise money for the school when you shop online (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>), and also see the *Parents And Friends Of Littledean School* Facebook page. We also receive money via the Forest lottery

(<https://fdean.gov.uk/communities-health-and-leisure/forest-lottery/>)



- Pop up stalls for mothers and fathers days
- Summer fair
- Advent raffle
- Winter fair
- Car boot sale
- Xmas jumper collection
- Friends non-uniform day – *“love who you are, wear what you love”*

Many thanks to those who have supported us.



## ***“We’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when”***

Of course we welcomed a new group of children into reception, and we said *a bientot* 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’s activities this year. Our message to all of them is good luck and go for it!

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.

Reverend Mike Barnsley	(Chair of governors)
Kelly Hall	(Parent governor and vice-chair)
Andrew Greenhalgh-Cook	(Parent governor)
Jim Swanson	(Parent governor)
Richard Prescott	(Community governor)

## **Our school Christian values for life**

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

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

