

School Report September 2021 / April 22

Another very busy year at school. The majority of which has seen staff, children and parents juggling the demands of Covid-19. We remained relatively unscathed until November 21, but then had a near constant stream of cases until February Half Term. Thankfully, everything seems ok at the moment, however it has certainly had an impact with children missing learning / restricted experiences and reduced staff capacity at times due to absence. One huge plus however has been how brilliantly the staff rallied around and covered to ensure that key operations were able to happen and thereby keep the school open.

Staffing

This academic year we have welcomed several new staff including Miss Breeze (Class 2 Teacher), Mrs Ingarfield (office), Miss Willson, Mrs Brackley and Miss Rossin (all Teaching Assistants). Their impact has also been very positive. Furthermore, we have a new Caretaker Mr Kevin Taylor and new Meal Time Assistant - Mrs Hallet. Moving forward to next year and I will sadly be leaving Musbury; moving onto a new challenge. Tomorrow (26th April), the Trust directors are interviewing for a new Head of School to start in September.

Curriculum

Over the last 2 terms we have continued to develop our curriculum to ensure it is broad and balanced. We continue to use Sporting Chance to enhance our PE and Forest School provision, while in music we have also appointed a specialist teacher to develop pupils key skills, particularly when playing the ukulele. Since the easing of restrictions we have slowly been able to plan more visits and visitors to enrich the experiences for our pupils. At the end of the summer term we are taking 16 members of Class 2 to London, which includes a night in the Science Museum. Mrs Wilcox has also been very busy integrating the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

This summer also marks a return to National Curriculum Assessments - Year 1 Phonics, Year 2 & Year 6 reading, writing and maths and for the first time the multiplication check in Year 4. All the children have been working very hard and making great progress from their starting points. As we are all able to mix more freely we are hoping to be able to develop more links with the community. If you believe you are able to help / support the school in any projects then please do let us know.

Other Information

The PTFA and School have been working together to fund a new Activity Playground in the outdoor area between Class 1 and the hall. I'm very pleased to report that we are nearly there with our fundraising and then new feature should be installed in September. From lunchtime, on Wednesday 25th May we are holding a sponsored walk to Musbury Castle from school and back, to hopefully raise the remaining monies. Anyone from the community is welcome to join us - tea / coffee and cake will be available.

Furthermore, a revised version of outdoor classroom is likely to go ahead over the summer holidays and we have been working with Devon Air Ambulance to enable a new night-time landing zone for the village on the school playing field (hopefully installed before the end of the Summer Term).

The school currently has 46 pupils on the roll, a number which has stabilised this year with a few children leaving, but with new families also joining our school community. This number highlights the positive position in which the school now finds itself and I'm confident that the school will remain in this strong position for many years into the future.

Many Thanks

Tim Nield
Head of School
Musbury Primary School
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