



Monyash Primary School

Report for Parish Annual Meeting 2016/17

It has been a busy twelve months for school since my last report to the Parish Annual Meeting. As well as the usual school activities, we started and ended the period with inspections. And of course, we watched another Year 6 cohort leave us to start their secondary education at Lady Manners, and welcomed a new intake into our wonderful Reception setting.

In May, we were inspected under the provisions of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools – usually called “SIAMS”. We were very pleased that this Church School inspection rated us as good. The inspector noted our “strong leadership and governance”, “excellent relationships within the school” and “close relationships between church and school”. There were of course areas for improvement, as there always are, but we felt the inspection validated the improvements we were making across school, even though it concentrated on church related aspects.

We welcomed four more new Governors who have been a real asset over the year. On the staffing front, we welcomed Mrs Homer back from maternity leave, and said goodbye to Mrs Roper who had provided cover.

Last summer saw the first SATs under Assessment Without Levels. All our cohorts are very small, but we were pleased that all our children made good progress.

Our Formal Collaboration with Winster was renewed last summer for a further twelve months, and Mrs Slack continues as Executive Headteacher for the two schools. Formal Collaborations are expected to last no longer than two years and in the autumn both Governing Bodies considered their options for September 2017 onwards. Both schools decided to move towards a Federation. This is an arrangement where two (or more) schools form a single Governing Board to oversee them, while each school in the Federation retains its own identity and character. So, for example, schools in a Federation keep their own budgets (though they can pool some resources if they see fit) and are inspected separately. A committee of ten Governors drawn from both schools, including Mrs Slack, has been formed and has agreed a plan of work and a timetable. Informal meetings with parents are planned for early May, with a formal consultation period towards the end of summer.



Our new website is now well established. As well as a variety of Key Information about school, we publish Governing Body minutes and the weekly school newsletter to parents. There's the diary of school events and meetings as well as special areas for parents, for Governors and for pupils. We also make our inspection reports available, so you can read the full SIAMS report, and the full report from our recent Ofsted inspection.

One of the strengths of our school is the support we get from parents and the wider community. Once again, the PTFA worked fantastically hard, holding two major fundraising events. At the May Market, they raised £3200 and at the Christmas Fair they raised over £2100. I think I used up all my superlatives in last year's report, but all the Governors are so grateful. Helping us financially is obviously valuable in these times of difficult and shrinking budgets – but their support is much wider than that. We really do feel a core part of the community in Monyash.

We had the usual mix of extra-curricular activities, including Well Dressing, Young Voices, and Whitehall. It was great to see everyone dressed up for World Book Day. And if you were in school on Red Nose Day your eyes will have been assaulted by so much Red – even up in the office. And I can personally attest that the fund-raising cakes were very tasty.

I want to finish this year's report by talking about Ofsted. We were inspected at the beginning of March and Governors were absolutely thrilled when we were judged not only "Good" overall, but with two areas rated "Outstanding" – our Early Years Provision, and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare. It really is a testament to all the hard work put in by everyone connected with the school. We're a small school with a big heart and even bigger aspirations, and we look forward to continuing to improve, and to giving our children the best possible start to their education and their lives in the wider world.

Chris Woodhouse

Chair of Governors and Local Authority Governor, Monyash Primary School

April 2017