



As God's family, together we achieve

1.4.2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Spring Term School Progress Report

General Updates

It is hard to believe where the Spring Term has gone, time really does fly!

Over the Easter Holidays, parents of children who are of reception age in September 2024 will find out their selection of primary school. We are extremely grateful for the families who took the time to view school and make Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary School their preferred school. Information on Admissions can be located on the school website and a formal offer will be delivered via email, or the method you chose to take when completing the application form.

Parents and Carers will need to **'accept'** an offer, then upon this acceptance, the school administration team will be in contact with the next steps. We always aim to have contact with our families by the end of April!

Pre-School

Our school nursery class is now in full swing, with some more children joining us in January. Sadly, we will not be taking any more children on from April 2024, due to being at capacity. Our next intake will be for September 2024 and we hope to have all applications in by the end of April. This will give the admission authority enough time to allocate and inform successful admissions by mid May 2024.

Governing Body

As you may know, the Governing Body plays a crucial role in providing direction and support for our school. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have dedicated individuals volunteer their time and expertise to help us carry out our work on a day-to-day basis.

I am pleased to announce that at the end of March, the Governing Body elected a new Chair of Governors, Mrs Victoria Walmsley. Mrs Walmsley brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this role, and I am confident that she will lead us with great dedication and enthusiasm.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of Jill Kershaw, who has been elected as an Associate Member following her relocation. Jill's commitment to our school and her expertise in SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are greatly appreciated, and we are fortunate to have her continued involvement.

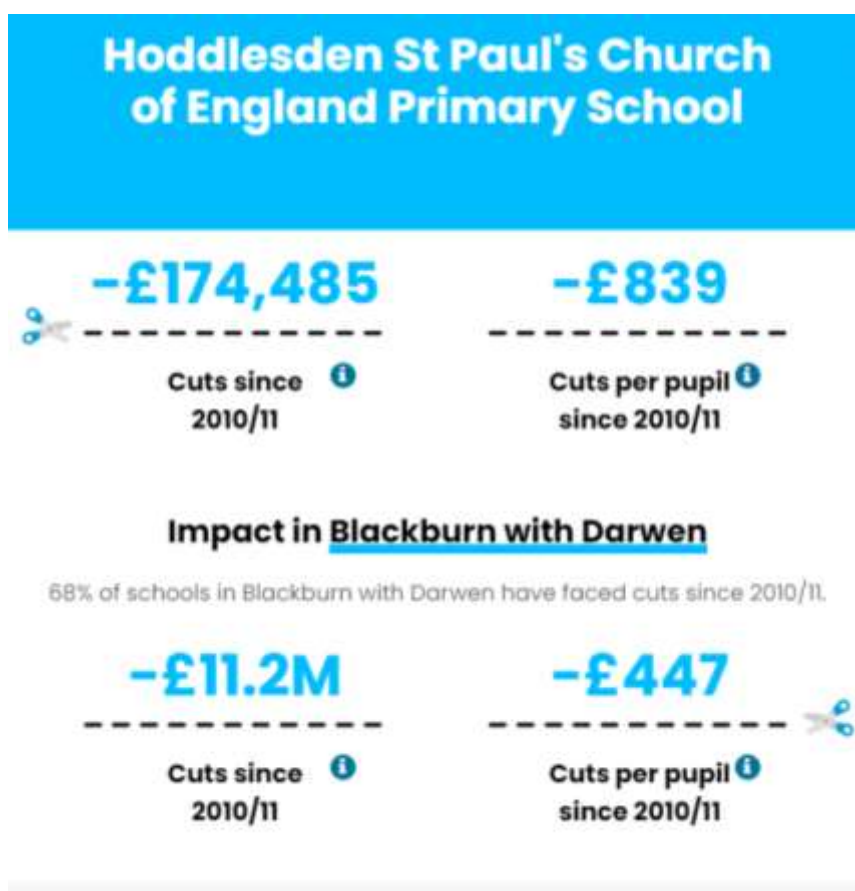
A vacancy has been created on the Governing Body. In order to fill this vacancy, the Governing Body will be opening a Parent Ballot in the autumn term 2024. This is an opportunity for parents to get involved and have a role in the governance of our school.

I encourage all interested parents to consider putting themselves forward for this important role. Your involvement and input are crucial to the continued success of our school, and I am confident that together, we can achieve great things.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary. If you have any questions or would like more information about becoming a Governor, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Pricing updates

As you may be aware, schoolcuts.org, supported by teaching unions, has highlighted the significant cuts that schools across the UK have faced in recent years. Unfortunately, our school has been no exception to this, and we have had to make some tough decisions in order to ensure that we continue to provide the best possible education for our pupils.



Last year, we made some adjustments to our pricing for wrap-around care, pre-school consumables, and catering services. The Governing Body and I have carefully reviewed these costs and are confident that they accurately reflect the value of the additional services we offer and at this time. This means no additional increases will be made now, or from September 2024. I cannot predict the future, and we all need to be mindful that should increases to wages, services and energy continue to rise, without funding reviews, some of these additional school resources and services may see an increase in pricing.

One area where we have seen a substantial increase in costs is school trips and visits. While we strive to keep these costs as low as possible, the school budget simply does not allow for them to be fully covered. We do ask for voluntary contributions towards these trips, and we are grateful for the support we receive from the PTFA in offsetting some of these costs. These enrichment opportunities are vital for enhancing our children's learning and we know how much they are valued by both pupils and parents.

In light of the current cost of living crisis, we understand that finances may be tight for many families. However, your continued financial support is crucial in order for us to be able to provide these important experiences for our children. We will always do our best to keep costs as low as possible and to be transparent in our pricing decisions.

Curriculum Achievements

Our main school improvement focuses this year are as follows:

Our school priorities:

- Priority 1- We want all pupils to learn a lot and do well in all subjects. We will look at their work and test results to see how they are doing.
- Priority 2- We will make sure that pupils who are really good at schoolwork keep doing well. This will help them in all subjects.
- Priority 3- We want all pupils to improve from where they started. This includes pupils who need extra help and support.
- Priority 4- Teachers will keep track of what pupils are learning and help them to achieve and remember more.
- Priority 5- We want pupils to have a positive attitude towards learning and show good values. This includes being respectful and following our school's rules.

Continued work towards securing positive outcomes remains our focus as a staff team. We have had multiple opportunities over the term for parents and carers to see their child's learning and development. Over the spring term, children have made huge strides in consolidating learning from the autumn term and now had the opportunity to deepen that learning and apply new skills.

Our whole school activities have once again filled the school and community with joy and love for learning. Parents' evening was a huge success and it was excellent to see you viewing your children's learning, development and growth. Our whole school worships have been a breath of fresh air and the highlight of everyone's day, especially our class worships.



**PARENTS' EVENING
FEEDBACK**

SPRING TERM 2024



Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our school questionnaire.

My child is happy at school?

**100%+
AGREE**

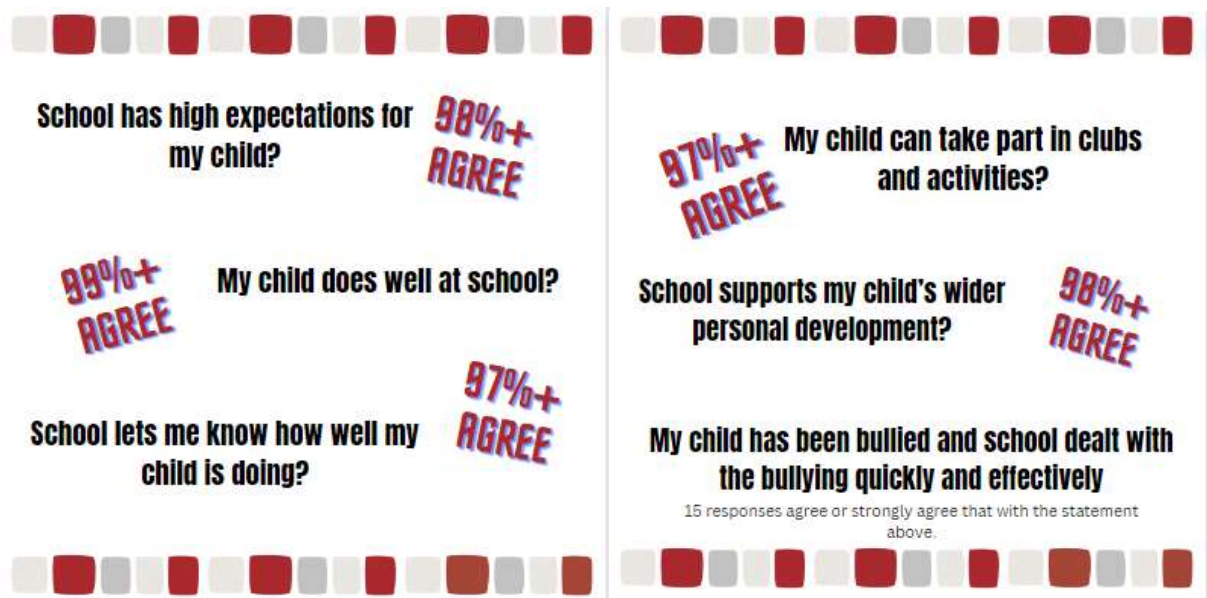
**100%+
AGREE**

My child feels safe at school?

**School makes sure its pupils are
well behaved?**

**100%+
AGREE**





The school team are working on our upcoming Sports Day, PTFA events and curriculum showcases.

Our class pages continue to showcase the awesome learning that is taking place in the classes across school. The early years' classes continue to impress the whole school community with the holistic achievements that our 3-5 year olds make. Children across Pre-School are starting to work towards their school readiness level and Reception children are blossoming into independent learners, ready for their move to Year 1.

External Views

We have welcomed external reviews from colleagues from SEND services to ensure that we are providing the best possible support for all learners in and around their classroom and school. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) has also been delivered to further enhance the support we offer to our pupils.

Additionally, safeguarding reviews have been conducted to celebrate the outstanding work we do as a school family to protect, care for, and safeguard our children.

I had the privilege of representing headteachers from Lancashire, Cumbria, and Blackburn with Darwen at Ofsted North West HQ. During this meeting, I had the opportunity to listen to Sir Martyn Oliver discuss policy changes and future actions being implemented by the department. As a System Leader, I was able to raise thoughts and questions on behalf of my colleagues to bring about a system that works for all.

I strongly advise and encourage all parents to complete the consultation that Ofsted is currently conducting. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen>

Uniform Update

I must also stress that children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school, unless for religious purposes (agreed with School prior to wearing). In addition, medical tags and bracelets can be worn, should a child have a medical condition.

If parents wish to have their child's ears pierced, I **recommend booking this in so you can utilise the upcoming 6-week summer holidays to allow for healing and infection prevention**. All piercings will need to be removed (not covered) upon the children's return in September 2024.



Staff Updates

I am delighted to inform you that Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary is proud to be a preferred partner for Edge Hill University in their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programmes. As Headteacher, it is with great pleasure that I share with you the news that their ITT provision has received an outstanding judgement in all areas during the recent Ofsted inspection.

Our School Mentors and I were both honoured, and a little nervous, when asked to speak with Ofsted during the university's inspection. However, I am thrilled to report that our school and other schools support for trainee teachers has been recognised as exceptional.

On average, we support two to three trainees each term, and it is truly heart-warming to see how seamlessly they integrate into school life. Some children have even formed strong bonds with these students in a short amount of time. It can be challenging to explain to some children that these trainees are only here for a short period before returning to 'Teacher School'. Your support on preparing our children for this change and movement of adults/teachers will be coming.

Parents and Community

The PTFA have once again supported school beautifully this term with a school disco and two chocolate bingo events. The fundraising the committee do provide additional and essential funds into school is remarkable. Without a strong volunteer and organisation commitment from parents, this may not be as impactful! Moving forwards, the PTFA will need volunteers and future PTFA leaders to continue to drive the fundraising agenda forwards. The PTFA will be sharing their next steps in the coming months.

Finally, I wish you and all our children a restful and enjoyable Easter holidays. May God bless and watch over you all and return you to school safely on **Monday 15th April 2024**.



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