

Hoddlesden St Paul's Church of England Primary School



Thursday 20th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

AUTUMN TERM 2018- SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT

Throughout the report you will read about the amazing progress all stakeholders have made to ensure the outcomes for our pupils are nothing but excellent. However, the last four weeks have been saddened by the unexpected passing of Miss Jenny Owen. Miss Owen was not just a member of staff at our school, but also a mother to three bright, polite and talented boys. Miss Owen was a breath of fresh air in school and from the very moment I started work at St. Paul's welcomed me with open arms. Her witty personality was infectious and her love for the children in this school was overwhelming. Miss Owen would always put the children in her care as her top priority and forever be at the child's level. As well as a general teaching assistant, Miss Owen also worked as a welfare assistant at lunchtimes. During this hour, she would be involved with every game or activity that the children were playing; many of the older boys in school will also fondly remember her very decisive refereeing during some heated football matches. As always, no one challenged the 'refs' decision.

As we all come to terms with Miss Owen's passing, school will be here to provide support wherever possible and over the coming months we will begin to plan a memorial service and symbol of remembrance, which all the children and families will be a part of.

Staffing Updates

As many of you will all be aware, Miss Greenwood will be taking a short break from teaching as she begins her maternity leave. Miss Greenwood and her fiancé will be welcoming a little baby boy in the New Year and we are extremely excited to meet him and welcome him to the St. Paul's family. In preparation for Miss Greenwood's temporary departure, we have welcomed Miss Coulton. Miss Coulton is an experienced class practitioner and has had a thorough induction and transition, in readiness for full class responsibility in the spring and summer term.

We also say a huge thank you and goodbye to Mrs Young and Mrs Butler, two phenomenal support assistants, who for many years have ensured the children in their care are able to access every aspect of their classroom provision. Everyone at St. Paul's wishes them both the very best as they begin a new chapter and spend quality time with their families.

We also say goodbye to Mr Mulkerrin who stepped in at the very last moment to cover the teaching in our Year 3 class. Mr Mulkerrin has made a huge impact in school and his fantastic personality will be truly missed by all of the children and staff. I would like to wish him all the best for the future and would happily welcome him back.

Over the last half term, the Senior Leadership Team has been busy recruiting a new teacher for Year 3. We are very pleased to have appointed another experienced teacher, Mrs Clitheroe. Mrs Clitheroe has a huge passion for teaching & learning and developing a creative curriculum. Mrs Clitheroe has been in school on several occasions to meet with Mr Mulkerrin, children and staff prior to her January start date.

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Please join me in welcoming some new faces to school and also saying 'thank you' to the staff who leave is at the end of this term.

Governors

Over the autumn term, the Governing Body elected a new Chair of Governors, Mrs Louise McGaffigan. Mrs McGaffigan was extremely pleased to be appointed to the position and is excited to support the school's growth and success. We are extremely lucky to have Mrs Leadley, our former Chair of Governors, on hand to provide any support or induction that may be needed.

We also have said a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Wiggans (Staff Governor) and Mrs Brine (Foundation Governor) who have tendered their resignation. The impact of their governance has provided a solid foundation for the Board to grow from and I am personally very grateful for their dedication and passion for ensuring the children of this great school receive the very best.

Parents' Evening Feedback

Thank you to all the parents and families that attended our autumn term parents' evening. It is one of the highlights of our school calendar and a superb opportunity for all stakeholders to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our children. During this term's meeting, many of the parents completed our questionnaire and added their thoughts on our comment slips. Once again, the comments were incredibly positive and celebrated the journey we have had and continue to have to ensure the very best for our children.

	Strongly Agree / Agree
My Child is happy at St. Paul's	100%
I received useful information about my child during my appointment.	98%
The school helps me to support my child's learning.	100%
My child is making good progress	100%
The school has high expectations	100%
The school is well led and managed	98%

Self-Evaluation End of Term Review

Whole school improvements have continued to be a focus from all levels of the leadership in school and subsequently great outcomes have been achieved. The three overarching objectives for school this year are as follows:

To continue to enhance pupils opportunities to access an innovative curriculum that all leaders strive to deliver, ensuring high quality teaching and learning across all subjects.

Over the last term the teaching team, along with other schools within our cluster, have been internally and externally moderating children's reading, writing and mathematics understanding. This cross moderation is

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providing staff with the opportunity to constructively challenge one another and consolidate teaching practice. We have also continued to receive and deliver specific subject training to staff in school, the cluster and from other schools across the county of Lancashire.

Curriculum development has begun, with teaching leads in school working together and in collaboration with external Teaching & Learning Consultants to begin to carve out a curriculum overview that meets the needs of our children and the community which we serve. We have been very lucky to also start to forge great working relationships with a number of local businesses, charities and independent traders who have begun to advise how we can strengthen the teaching and learning in school and not waver from skill development and progression across all subjects.

This term has also been very significant for our Parent and School Partnership progression. Stay and plays events, open evenings and parent workshops have been significant this term and have really strengthened our shared vision of providing the very best for our children.

To continue to develop all stakeholders/leaders' understanding of and involvement in the school's self-evaluation.

As mentioned earlier, the school's Governing Body has been very active over the term, ensuring that the judgements made by leaders are quality assured and the shared vision is child focused and relevant to our children and their families. Governors have also attended multiple training courses, which are pertinent to their volunteered role to ensure the very best is seen in school.

Continued professional development is vitally important for all in school and leaders ensure that every member of staff have the opportunity to discuss their job role and the aspects of their job that give the greatest satisfaction. It is also very important that staff, just like children, have the opportunity to learn new things and flourish. Over the last term, the teaching staff and support staff have had bespoke training to further develop our teaching and learning practices.

We are also very proud to be opening our doors to other schools across Blackburn with Darwen who wish to come and observe our approaches and hopefully be able to further develop areas in their own schools from what they have viewed at St. Paul's.

To ensure children and staff have a deeper understanding of our shared Christian values at all levels of our immediate, local and global communities.

Over recent months, the teachers in school have been striving forward with our church and community representatives to plan and deliver excellent events and celebrations that reflect our local, national and global needs. Cannon Sue Witts, our church lay pastor, has been fundamental in developing these important partnerships and has helped deliver our incredibly successful Advent Spirituality Day. Sue has also worked alongside our class teachers to transition our style of school worship into some of St. Paul's Church Sunday Services. Two great examples have been our Remembrance Service (both at the War Memorial and a service on Remembrance Day) and our EYFS service at the beginning of our School Fair.

Community

- Rosemere Cancer Research Coffee morning raised over £400
- The PTFA organised and delivered a phenomenal Chocolate Bingo, raising over £800
- Children In Need raised the profile of the charity and their amazing work and as a community we have raised £250
- Anti-Bullying week had a focus on Respect. The work undertaken was deepened by our children's own knowledge and work on this term's Christian Value.
- Year R, 2 and 4 have delivered class worship, with excellent attendance from families.
- The whole school attended a Remembrance Day service at the war memorial in the village to remember lives lost at war.
- School and Church organised and delivered a fantastic Christmas Fair, jointly raising £1800.

Finally, thank you to all the children and families who have helped bring in the 'Christmas Spirit'; the productions that all the children have been a part of have been phenomenal and truly special. We are also very grateful for the additional £400 raised from our Christmas collection box.

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Building and Outdoors

As mentioned in our previous School Progress Reports, we have secured significant funding over the last two years for work to be completed on our school roof. The next term will see the final stages of this completed the week before and including February half term. Small external parts of school will be closed off for health and safety purposes. We will also have a small section of the school playground cordoned off to make room for the contractor's welfare cabins and skips. More information and potential timetable variations will be sent home when the final details have been confirmed.

New EYFS Admission Closing Date

Over the last term we have had the privilege of meeting lots of new children and parents during our 'Open Days'; it is always a pleasure showing people around our wonderful school. A reminder that the closing date for admissions forms needing to be submitted is the **15th January 2019**. Further details can be found on our school website or through the Local Authorities website.

All that there is left to say is...

Once again thank you for your constant support this term and should you have any questions surrounding this terms progress report, please don't hesitate to contact school.

I wish you all a fantastic and safe Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you all in school in January.

Best regards,

Mr C Dugdale

Headteacher