

St. Mary's

Church of England Primary School
Kirkby Lonsdale

Annual Review
Summer 2016

Our School Vision

St Mary's Church of England School

Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria



Colossians : 3 v 23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord .



Our Values

Honesty

Trust

Perseverance

Respect

Responsibility

School Values

We have developed our school values in consultation with the children, parents, staff, community and governors of our school.



Honesty



Respect



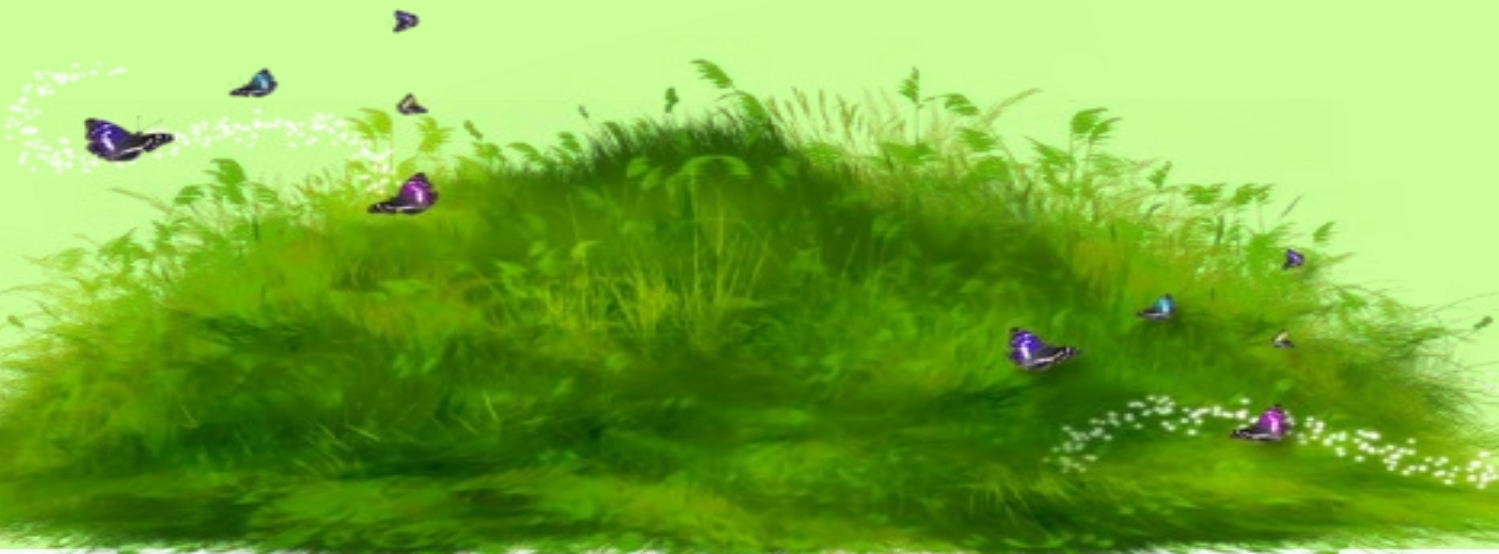
Trust



Responsibility



Perseverance



Dear parents, families and friends of our school,

I have spent an academic year as the new headteacher of St Mary's School and time has certainly flown by. Whilst recognising the various traditions of St Mary's I have tried to make changes and move the school forward, developing a positive environment which celebrates our children's talents and encourages them to take risks. The changes this year I believe, will establish the foundation blocks to enable our new vision for the school to be fulfilled. This has also taken place at a time of seismic educational change nationally. However I believe the sign of a good school ensures that we provide an education that meets the needs of each child despite the many changes and challenges schools face nationally. I have, like many parents, concerns about both the testing and demands placed upon our primary children in England today. We are determined to focus on supporting our children to reach their potential and give them the skills and resilience required for the future.

We have very special children in our school who clearly have a lot of potential and talent. Having an equally special school environment is very important to ensure the children feel valued. Consequently we have begun to develop the school building and outdoor spaces. We will continue an ongoing plan of school development to provide an outstanding space in which to learn.

Throughout the year we have reflected on how we can further improve our school for our children including developing the curriculum, outdoor and residential opportunities as well as enhancing our creativity. Partnership and communication has also been central in our work including our new website and email service. I hope that our newsletters and blogs enable parents to connect with learning in classes and reinforce and enhance our children's learning, along with an open door policy. I would like to thank you for your support in helping moving the school forward. It is our challenge to make the vision for our school a reality, to provide greater outdoor learning opportunities and encourage creativity in everything we do. We look forward to the arrival of our outdoor classroom pods next year to facilitate this further. Our children are unique individuals and we will work tirelessly to ensure everyone progresses academically as best as they can. Dovetailing with this, we aim to challenge our children and enable them to develop and discover their talents and celebrate them. The combination of excellent academic progress and discovering their abilities serving to build self-confidence.

In the many years I have been teaching I am aware of the uniqueness of children and how they develop at both different rates and at different times. Like my own children, they prove to be very different individuals and they make progress at different rates, often in writing, reading or maths. Importantly we need to teach our children differently each year and also within a class facilitating different learning styles and interests. It is our aim to ensure that children are given the opportunities and experiences which allow them to discover new skills and develop their individual talents. The topics studied and first hand experiences gained this year have been varied and rich and it has been a pleasure to see opportunities for children to share and present their work in many ways. Next year we will be provided further residential experiences, improved sporting activities and an even more creative ways to teach our topics.

I firmly believe in 'Roots and Wings', enabling our children to have an academic foundation in tandem with the skills to apply these, then enabling them to fly as individuals, with confidence, becoming rounded children. It is our aspiration that through the many experiences and adventures we plan in our curriculum that our children will grow and then be confidently released into the next phase of their educational journey. A priority is to ensure our children have a good level self-confidence and awareness and acceptance of who they are. We are constantly reviewing our teaching styles and curriculum to provide opportunities to develop these important aspects of life, within the context of our school values.



This year our children have had many chances to explore their creativity including poetry and art competitions, performances both at Christmas, Easter and at the end of term with our infant and junior shows. This has also included music concerts and assemblies or presentations. As I walk around classes there are some superb examples of art on the walls and in books. It is this creativity which we hope to further develop over the next few years.

Throughout the year I have had the privilege of attending various sporting competitions and events. Whether at a muddy and cold cross country race, a sunny cricket festival or exciting inter school athletics, our children have shown great determination and skill when competing. We have also participated in swimming galas, hockey tournaments and many other inter school sporting events. The experiences have taught our boys and girls to learn from losing, always showing sportsmanship whatever the result and celebrating success. Furthermore I have seen and heard of excellent examples of individual determination and team work. Beyond our school provision it is also wonderful to hear about our children's active lives in a huge range of sports as well as their personal achievements. It is our intention to further increase the opportunities to take part in sport as well as increase the variety of options we offer to our children, competitively, after school and in lessons. Thank you to everyone who has supported our children and donated funds to provide new equipment and sports kit this year.

The various visits, events and visitors in school serve to fuel our children's imaginations, experiences and enhance their learning. This year our school council have been extremely active both in school and at the Pupil Parliament and have visited London to explore the value of voting at the Houses of Parliament. Many of our children have had some wonderful outdoor experiences during the year in various weather conditions e.g. day and residential outdoor activities at Borwick Hall and Hawse End as well as open water swimming.

The wealth of volunteers we have in school has been wonderful both from students from Queen Elizabeth School and from parents and family members. Thank you to everyone who has enriched our children's learning experience and supported children in reading or working in groups. Our PTA have also given so much of their time and energy raising funds but also providing a raft of community events which are so valuable. Special thanks to all of the PTA who have supported our school and are now stepping down; we value your energy, time and enthusiasm.

I have been very proud of our children and staff this year working towards and responding to, our high expectations. I really have been impressed with the level of good behaviour and the way our children have been inclusive and supportive to our new children and those with specific needs. I look forward to next year and taking our children on an even more exciting educational journey and I wish our children leaving us, continued success in all they do, as they make the transition into exciting new beginnings.

Brian Jones

Headteacher



Mathematics

One of the exciting aspects of mathematics this year has been introducing our challenge system to recognise learning all of our times tables to 12. Next year our children will be tested as part of the KS2 SATS nevertheless these have always been an essential part of maths. We also held the inter house times tables challenge which tested the children's knowledge of times tables.

One key element of embedding the national curriculum has been using mastery to broaden and extend thinking in maths. This is reflected in our marking and planning and enables children to apply and extend their knowledge in maths. Our children take part in end of unit assessments each half term. We encourage a 'have a go' attitude in maths and enable children to learn from their mistakes through a positive dialogue with staff.

There is always a tricky element of maths or an area where children can learn more about. With this in mind we encourage our children to set targets for themselves to master a particular concept or area in maths.

Throughout the year we provide on going intervention support to allow those children finding maths challenging, a chance to address misconceptions and errors.



English

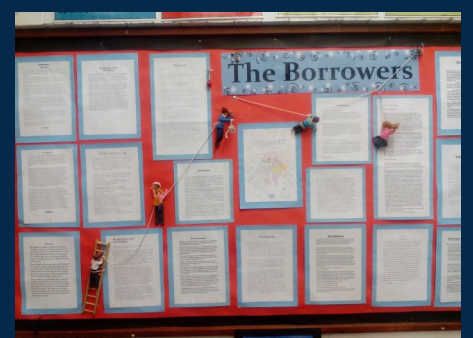
To find creative ways to support and encourage children to write has been a big focus this year. We have worked on providing many first hand experiences and creative starting points for our writing. This year we have held a reading week encouraging our children to explore books and explore authors. We also held a pantomime which the children wrote about with great interest.

During our writing week, each class studied and delved into an Oliver Jeffers book of their choice. We shared our work with each other and got lost in the stories.

We have worked hard to encourage children to improve their vocabulary and language. Mr Jones has given us a word of the week to learn new words.

We have had a whole host of volunteers hearing our children read which has really boosted their confidence. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in school this year!

We continue to reflect upon how we can help our children who find reading and writing challenging. Using various strategies, software and support groups we have ensured that our children have progressed and feel more confident about reading and writing.

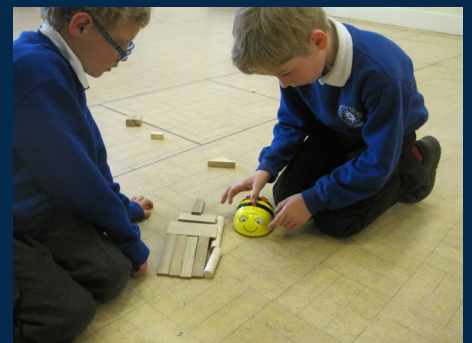


Science

This year has been full of excitement in Science. There have been various clubs at lunchtime, from 'Pet Clubs' to 'Girls and Technology' and Gardening Club after school. Science Week had a new, all action image. It started off with a big-bang assembly, where Mr Bromley nearly lost his eye brows.

The whole school dressed as mad scientists and took part in some experiments, a few never seen in St Mary's. We had visitors, workshops and rocket launching. The Year 5s got to go and take part in a chemistry lesson at QES, where they witnessed some unusual chemical reactions. Some sixth formers and their teachers came over to our infants and demonstrated how to fire rockets using two different gases—with explosive results!

It was all very inspiring and the energy fuelled a new interest in science across the school. We hope this will continue next year, when we aim to take the curriculum outside and interweave science throughout the core subjects.



Computing

The computing curriculum has really taken off this year and the children are showing an astonishing ability in the subject. We've had a big investment in our computing equipment giving us more opportunities to use mobile technology around the school grounds.

Infants have had visits from STEM ambassadors who have really enhanced the children's experiences with controlling and programming mobile devices and it is wonderful to see the enthusiasm for this throughout the school. In the juniors there has been a focus on building and debugging programs and games using Scratch and Kodu software. We were also very lucky to have a visit from the QES VEX robotics teams who gave a very polished performance on their progress though the national competitions. This gave Year 6 the introduction into building their own computer controlled models using the K'NEX kits purchased by our supportive PTA. These models are simply fantastic and something the children can be proud of. It was lovely to see the Year 5 computer club explore the components of real computers. This all leads us to a very exciting position—who knows what we might create next year?



Art

What a great year of Art at St Mary's for the second year in a row, Year 1 won the 'Best School' window display during Kendal Comic Art Festival, with their carton figures. Anna Cobley in Year 1 also won a 'Walk to School' art competition for her poster encouraging us all to walk more.

We held an after school club in Christmas Crafts and we supported two QES pupils who taught our junior children for their Silver Arts Award.

Over the summer we are busily preparing art work to display at the Westmorland Show and Kirkby Lonsdale Agricultural Show. We're Looking forward to even more success!

It has been a very creative year and we have seen some lovely art work created throughout school. Our school website showcases some of the art and displays this year.



French

European Day of Language is always celebrated in September. At St Mary's we all join in this special day. Each class chooses a different country to explore for the day, participating in a variety of activities, art and craft, dance, food tasting and of course, learning some of the language.

During the year, we have learned about different French festivals and celebrations. This has included, Christmas (La fête de Noël), Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day or Mardi Gras), and towards the end of the year, Bastille Day (14 juillet). The children have enjoyed learning about French customs and traditions

We benefit from two after school French clubs which enable our children to further immerse themselves in the French language.



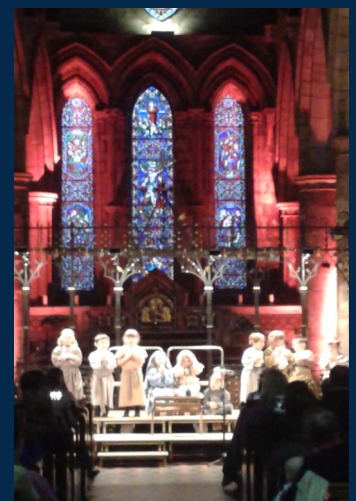
Religious Education

It has been an exciting year for RE in the school with changes to our teaching and learning. We have been focusing more on assessment due to the assessment changes for school children. Initially this does not sound very exciting but we are finding creative ways in which to enable children to share and show their understanding.

We have thought very carefully about making RE really fun and interactive in class and the children have really grown in their passion for the subject!

The worship council have been thinking very carefully about how to raise the profile of RE in school and have come up with some fantastic ideas to engage the school more fully in prayer and worship – look out for these next year!

One of our aims is to ensure we give children a good understanding of different faiths and enable them to reflect on how the topics studied apply to themselves.



Music

We have had a very successful year with music at St Mary's. We have held 2 very exciting music concerts where the children performed in front of an audience.

We have composed new National Anthems to celebrate the Queen's birthday and many of the children have passed music exams. Both KS1 and KS2 performed musical extravaganzas to celebrate the end of the year. With both songs and dances they were a delight to watch.

It has been exciting to see so many children learning various instruments this year including violin, piano, drums, flute and saxophone to name just a few.

Year 3 have really progressed learning brass and Year 4 equally so with the recorder. We have so much musical talent in our school!

The various performances this year, have been a delight and have been the highlight of Christmas, Easter and the end of term.



Physical Education

What an exceptional year of successful sporting achievements we have had this year. Our cross country teams have really performed well getting to the Cumbria County finals. One of our children was able to get to the County finals in Leicester.

Our inter school tournaments ensured that we have a range of competitive activities including hockey, rounders, cross country etc.

More and more children have taken part in sport this year especially with our huge sporting event to raise funds for Sports Relief. Sports day provided our children with a (very cold) opportunity to compete and take part in various events.

We have competed in numerous inter school competitions including coming second at the inter school athletics and cricket. Importantly we have increased our cricket coaching for Year 5 and 6 throughout the spring.

We have also arranged for a new sports coach in addition to Gill Ecclestone, Danny Harper to join our team to provide an even better sporting experience for our children.



Exciting outdoor adventure in our curriculum ...



Exciting experiences in our curriculum this year...



School Council

This year we have focused on sharing British Values in our school. Our Year 5 and 6 school council members have taken part in the South Lakes Pupil Parliament which has brought many South Lakes primary school councils together. Launched by Tim Farron M.P. and held at the Netherwood Hotel we have presented various projects which we have worked on in school. This has included, what makes our school special, what makes Britain great and explored the rights of children globally. We have also tried to explore the concept of difference, stereotyping as well as need and wants.

We have had both Tim Farron and representatives from the Houses of Parliament Outreach team, present workshops and an assembly in our school.

As school councillors we have listened to the various views of the children in school and shared these with Mr Jones, our Headteacher.

Finally this year we have had the opportunity to take all of our junior council members to the Houses of Parliament for the day. We went with friends from Beetham School who joined us in workshops and a tour of Parliament as well as a guided tour of London.

This has been a busy year and we have worked hard to try and improve our understanding of democracy and encouraged our school to think more about the many issues we and our country face.

Finally we have celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday this year with a special day, firstly we held a Clean for the Queen day where all of the children tidied our school grounds. On her official birthday we held a tea party and had a day of games and activities to help us learn about the Royal family and the Queen's service. It was a great day which we all enjoyed together.



Head Girl—Emma S



Head Boy—Scott C



As part of our review process we have taken time to reflect upon the priorities for the next year. As part of this we have prepared a school improvement plan which focuses on the following key areas:

- ◆ Improving spelling acquisition throughout school
- ◆ Developing outdoor learning to further improve the opportunities provided within and outwith our curriculum
- ◆ Further develop mastery in both mathematics and other areas of the curriculum
- ◆ Extend our able and talented provision throughout school
- ◆ Develop our role in the local South Lakes Rural Partnership network as part of leadership development plan

We have recently developed our vision for the school and the values which will act as a thread woven into everything we do. The priorities above begin to embed this vision and take us to the next step in improving our wonderful school. We hope our parents and the school community will continue to support us in helping realise this vision for our children.





St Mary's CE Primary School, Kendal Road, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, LA6 2DN

015242 71334 www.stmarys-kl@cumbria.sch.uk