

Subject:	Report from Charlbury Primary School
From:	Janet Burroughs
Date:	25/07/22
For information	
Summary of decisions or actions requested:	
N/A	
Financial implications:	
N/A	
Communications:	
N/A	

2021/2022 was another year of change and challenge for the school. This report can only give a snapshot of the year, identifying just a few of the events during the year.

In March, the school said goodbye to Scott Lewis. Scott joined the school in January 2020 and almost immediately had to deal with the challenge of a lifetime – the Covid Pandemic. He led the school in providing the best possible provision and support for the children and is owed a big debt of gratitude by all.

A new headteacher, Charlotte (Charlie) Barwell has been appointed and will be starting officially in September. In the meantime, 2 interim heads, Frances Bartlett and Rachel Crouch have been managing the school, and have proved to be an experienced, hard working and formidable team. They have been working with Charlie to set the foundations for the coming year. Again, a debt of gratitude is owed to Frances and Rachel.

Meanwhile, the school has been gradually returning to more normal operations during the year. Aside from their normal classroom based activities, the children have been able to return to a range of activities including enjoying residential trips, taking part in the national Young Voices concert, having a sports day with family able to attend and cheer them on. And Year 6 have been able to say their goodbye with several performances of Aladdin. They have also been active in the community with the school choir opening the Jubilee Big Picnic event and art work being displayed in St Mary's Church.

The children have also been busy developing their Sustainable School Programme led by a team of Eco Warriors, supported by Kat Pringle, and others. And their work and enthusiasm has resulted in the school being awarded the prestigious Eco School Green Flag Award with Distinction.

Highlights from Term 5 and Term 6 include:

- Year 1 planting a herb garden
- Year 3 have been very engaged with protecting hedgehogs
- Year 4 worked with a local ecologist to carry out a biodiversity survey of Wychwood Paddocks
- Year 1, Year 3, and Year 5 enjoyed visits to Farm ED
- Year 5 had a visit to Cornbury Park to learn about sustainable land use.
- Year 2 have made some eye-catching labels for all the recycling bins around the school to remind everyone to use them!
- Year 4 made solar ovens and learnt how to use solar energy to melt chocolate onto marshmallows!
- The whole school celebrated World Oceans Day on 10th June – a non-uniform day - and were able to raise £204 to send to the WWF for their ocean conservation work.

One memorable event for the children this year took place on Tuesday 20th May. It was a fine day, and the school turned out in force, walking to the Playing Close to join other members of the Charlbury community to welcome HRH the Countess of Wessex who was visiting Charlbury. And some of the children got to chat to her. Smiles all around.

The school has worked to operate throughout the year, flexibly adapting to a changing environment to ensure that all the children are supported. An example of this has been the recent few days of very high temperatures. Charlbury School remained open throughout the Monday and Tuesday affected, operating normal opening times which included after school clubs that go on until 5pm. Children were able to go home at lunch time if parents, or carers, wished. But those who needed to remain at school as normal were able to do so, thanks to the staff.

Finally, a mention for the Charlbury School Association (CSA) which, like the school itself, has been able to increase its fundraising activities, including a much enjoyed Barn Dance during the Jubilee weekend, to provide additional facilities for the children.

Janet Burroughs
Governor, Charlbury Primary School

25/7/22.