

Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School
2022/23

Blewbury School has had a busy and very successful last year, and what an exciting year it has been for the pupils staff, and supporters of the School.

The School's vision and core values of love, forgiveness, resilience, and courage have been important as the School moves forward. These values, along with a terrific team effort involving the staff, children, parents, governors, and the wider community mean that the School has emerged with greater resilience, strength and with well-founded aspirations for the future. Blewbury School is on an upward trajectory and is an exciting place to be.

2022 began with some Covid restrictions still in place. The children continued to work in bubbles and there were limits to visitors and volunteers. Slowly, during the year this changed with the children able to work and play together and finally visitors and volunteers were welcomed back.

During the year the children studied the local area and how it has changed over time. Some children visited the Didcot Railway Museum to learn what it was like during World War 2 and they experienced being evacuated on a steam train. Some members of the Blewbury History Group visited Goldsworthy Class to support their learning about changes in the village over time. The pupils in this class learned that Blewbury Post Office has moved over 10 times since it first opened; Blewbury has been here for over 1000 years and was mainly just farmland and orchards; there once was a pub called The Load of Mischief, and the garage has been in the village for at least 80 years.

Later in the year some classes visited The Black Country Living Museum to learn about life in Victorian times and others visited the Motor Museum to look at vintage vehicles. This was followed by a local collector taking a vintage car to the school, so that the children could have a close-up view.

The oldest children had the opportunity to attend a residential at Hill End where they were praised for their behaviour and manners, whilst the younger children in July had a trip to Bournemouth Beach.

Reading and a love of books is being developed throughout the School and this has included joining in with World Book Day as well as enjoying Miss Reeder's book of the month. Wonderful volunteers have also returned to school to

listen to children read and talk about their books. If anyone wants to join them we would love to recruit a few more

The School has a wonderful outside space, and the children are enjoying exploring it through Nature school and the school is now working with Sustainable Blewbury to enhance the environment further.

In May we welcomed some children from Ukraine and our school became even more international as they added further diversity to the number of children from all around the world.

Sports Day again took place in the Autumn term and the whole School were involved and parents were able to join in and support the children.

The children have been involved in many celebrations throughout the year. This began in January with a celebration of Candlemas and Christingle in a combined virtual collective worship led by Father Jason and with readings from children in Klimt class.

In April the Easter service included readings, cards, poems and prayers all written and/or made by the children and they sang Easter Jubilation! Father Jason again led the way in rejoicing in new life and reminding everyone of the importance of forgiveness.

In June the School was very pleased to be asked to host the Village Jubilee celebrations, which took place in the school grounds and in the Village Hall.

In October the children celebrated Harvest in St Michael's Church and how wonderful it was to see parents, carers and people from the village coming together to give thanks for the harvest through songs, poems and prayers.

On Remembrance Day there was a moving service in School, and Annabel from the Blewbury Brass Band came to play the Last Post, ahead of the minute's silence. A poppy trail made by all the children led visitors through the School.

Christmas celebrations took place in a much more usual way this year. The school catering staff once again produced a memorable meal, and the youngest children were able to perform a nativity play whilst the older children performed poems songs and prayers for their service in Church.

Rev Louise led an after school club for about 16 children who followed the Christmas story whilst enjoying games and refreshments.

Father Jason continues to lead a weekly act of worship for the whole school

Governors

The governing body has three core functions:

To develop the vision and values of the school

To hold the leaders to account

To ensure that finances are spent properly and for the children of the school.

In September ODST judged that the School is now in a position to have a full local governing board (FGB) and so additional members have been and are still being recruited. Matt Stone, Sarah Mols, Vaughan Humphries and Lesley Botchway have already joined the FGB, and we are delighted with the contribution that they are already making to our work.

Focus this year has been on

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Leadership
- Curriculum
- Improved teaching and learning through coaching and professional development
- Improved Early Years provision

If you want to learn more about the School please go on the School's website which is updated regularly.

Finally we have room in the School for quite a few more pupils, so if you are speaking to anyone who is moving into the area with primary school age children please encourage them to come along for a guided tour and welcome at their happy, successful and friendly Village School.