

# The Hayfield Herald



## All God's Children

Despite the continuing restrictions and Covid measures school is starting to feel more normal again. We do miss seeing all the children in assembly and lunchtimes in the hall but in the classrooms the children are enjoying their usual amazing learning experiences. There has been lots going on over the last few weeks and especially with our renewed push for reading (the most important thing the children can do and enjoy!).

Following the disturbing events in America over the last few months there has been a global recognition and desire to 'end racism'. This has been echoed by the Church of England and our Diocese have provided us with some Collective Worship resources about the Black Lives Matter protests and accepting all of God's children, regardless of race or belief. Over the last two weeks all of the classes have covered this (along with other schools across the Diocese) at an age appropriate level and all centred around the parable of 'The Lost Sheep'. It explores how even though all of the other sheep were safe it was still just as important to protect the lost sheep and bring them all together. This is such an important message for all children that, despite our differences, God loves all of us and we must look out for each other. It is sad that we live in a world where racism still exists and we will do all that we can to help the children at Hayfield Cross to grow up without prejudice and stand up for what is right. On this theme, all classes will be doing some work around Black History Month when we return after half term and we are building in more learning around diversity through our PSHE lessons and curriculum through the year.

A couple of weeks ago Key Stage 2 had a surprise experience day to launch their curriculum themes. As we are restricted in allowing the children to dress up all of the staff surprised the children when they arrived by being dressed up instead. Year 3 were the Stone Age, Year 4 the Romans and Celts, Year 5 the Ancient Greeks and Year 6 the Egyptians. The children spent the day doing a whole range of different activities to explore and discover about their themes. It was a lovely day but we look forward to when we can have our dressing up days and events again.

We have been lucky enough to secure the free music tuition project from NMPAT again this year enabling all of Year 3 to learn the Ukulele. They are set up in the hall, all socially distanced and away from the peripatetic teacher enabling us to do this safely. The children have made a fabulous start with their lessons and we look forward to seeing how they progress. Unfortunately, we won't be able to hold a concert at the moment but will hopefully find a way to share with parents at the end of the project.

Miss Douglas has been busy recently appointing Science Technicians across KS2. These are children who volunteered and love Science so will be responsible for helping with Science activities and hopefully represent us in Science activities with the Ogden Trust (when we are able to do them again). Well done to all who were chosen.

It is with huge gratitude and a heavy heart that we are saying a massive thank you to Helen Cracknell this week. Mrs Cracknell is now stepping down as Chair of Governors after being in post for 5 years! She was initially asked by the Diocese to join the shadow governing board before the school was built to support with her vast experience of being a head teacher and having opened a new school herself. She has been involved with the school from before the building was even started, guiding its inception and principles which we still hold true today. She was on my interview panel and has been involved in employing all of the staff in the school in one way or another. Helen took over as Chair in our first year (when we had less than 40 children in two classes) and seen it grow to 12 classes and 339 children. We have been through Ofsted and a SIAMs inspection together and weathered many a difficult storm (including Covid!) as the school has grown. She has also been an incredible advocate and champion when dealing with the road and development situation and that we now have a permanent road is in no small part down to her. Throughout our journey Helen has been an amazing support, mentor and challenger for both me and our Senior Leaders and has been an integral part of shaping our school. I feel very lucky to have had such a fantastic Chair of Governors and will miss Helen greatly. I know she is very proud of Hayfield Cross and hope she knows what a key role she has played in making such a successful school in the middle of a field! Helen has agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair though so will still be actively involved and I am pleased to share that Mr Steve Atkins will be taking over the role of Chair of Governors, welcome Mr Atkins ☺

*Craig Charteris* Head Teacher

*Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid.  
The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go<sup>3</sup> (Joshua 1:9)*

Joy - Integrity - Fellowship