

Charlbury Primary School
Governor's Report for Charlbury Town Council
27 April 2021

All the children returned to school on March 8th. A range of procedures implemented to ensure a safe return in March are still in place, including working in bubbles and rotas at lunch time.

The school reports that things are gradually settling down. The children are happier and a huge improvement in behaviour has been observed. But the effect of the lockdowns on the children is still being seen. And the continuance of working in bubbles is impacting, to some extent, on the development of good inter-personal skills and mental well-being.

The school is continuing with a range of activities aimed at supporting and improving behaviour and mental well-being of the children.

Returning to a normal curriculum is also taking time. Curriculum coverage has been impacted by COVID, and in particular music, one of the school's strengths, and computing. Music, including singing, must wait on government relaxations. Issues with computing have been addressed by the purchase of a set of chromebooks which Year 6 are enjoying, and which will be timetabled for all classes in due course.

Flexible working by staff has been important and greater use has been made of Wychwood Paddocks, weather permitting. The school is now looking to fundraise to enable a toilet block to be installed which would allow even more use.

This year the government will not require assessment data to be submitted. There will be no official SATS 1 and SATS 2 assessments. However, the school is continuing with its teacher assessments of each child's progress and Year 6 are going to have a school "SAT's week" arranged, to provide some experience of sitting formal exams.

However, the school has been able to arrange a Peer Review (by serving headteachers) of its reading, maths and history teaching. The review was very positive. It recognised that significant work had been done to ensure effective teaching and learning in these areas, whilst identifying where further work was required.

Residentials, another important part of the curriculum, have also been badly affected. They have been re-scheduled at least once, and the school monitoring government action on COVID restrictions. The Year 6 residential (originally due scheduled for November 2020) may, just may, happen before the children leave to move on to secondary school.

The Summer term is also a term when family and friends can share in the school's activities with the summer dancing afternoon, sports day and a farewell performance by Year 6 pupils. All these events are normally very well supported, but this year will be subject to a limit on numbers to meet social distancing requirements, and in the case of the summer dancing there will be no audience.

Planning is in hand for the Summer School 25th to 27th August for Years 1-5, financed by COVID support funding.

Managing finances continues, as for all schools, to be a challenge and subject to ongoing review.

And on a final note, on Friday the children were able to enjoy a celebration of World Book Day, deferred from 4 March, and attend school dressed as a favourite character from a book.

Janet Burroughs 20 June 2021
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