

# Annual Report to Parish Council

## April 2021



As it has been for everyone, this hasn't been a 'normal' year at school but at no time has school been closed. We have maintained provision for children of Key Workers and our vulnerable children. Teaching and learning has been adapted to facilitate 'bubbles' and 'remote learning' and the staff have been under constant pressure developing new ways to support the children.

There have been many increased costs during the past year to ensure school is able to create a safe environment for staff and children. We have been very grateful for the financial support we received from the local community to help cover these increased costs. Local groups also donated new and used devices to help our families access the remote learning package we delivered in the first term of 2021.

However, there have also been many positives for us to celebrate...



Over a year into the pandemic and we are pleased not to have recorded any positive Covid-19 cases linked to school. None of our staff or children have been required to isolate due to a positive test and we haven't closed any of our teaching 'bubbles'.

The school environment has undergone many changes in the last twelve months. During the first 'lockdown', staff used their own time to decorate classrooms and move some of our rooms around. As a result, we created a new staffroom and a new Leadership office. We also worked with a team of volunteers to extend the outdoor learning environment for children in the Early Years. In autumn, we had the old changing rooms converted into a modern toilet block and a reading shelter erected in the woods (paid for by The Friends of Melton School). Since October, we have had all the external windows and doors replaced and work is ongoing to lay a new roof and fit fascia boards. When all this is completed, we will have a fabulous looking building. The reduced number of children in school has also made the completion of our building work easier to complete. With fewer children to move round rooms when the roof was being removed or the windows were being fitted, organisation has been simpler.



Many of our families have been affected financially during the pandemic and we have increased the support we have offered. This has included the distribution of weekly food boxes using items supplied by FareShare. This was a restructuring of a plan we had originally intended to introduce last Spring using funding from our Pupil Premium pot and support from the Melton Trust to develop a 'food pantry' in schools. However, the changing circumstances meant we had to adapt our approach. At the height of the most recent lockdown, we were providing boxes for 26 families each week but have now returned to a regular 12 families. At Christmas I was also able to secure some funding to offer bigger food boxes to our families. The £2000 grant paid for 'family meal' boxes and 'cupboard essentials' boxes from Morrisons supermarket to be provided for 40 families at Melton Primary and a further 10 at Kyson Primary.

To enable all this to happen, we have been grateful for the support of staff in school, school governors and members of the local community who have given their time to prepare and deliver the boxes. Community volunteers have also enabled us to continue the scheme during the school holidays.





Teaching and learning has continued to develop in school and we are pleased with the progress. Unfortunately for us, circumstances mean that no official data was released for summer 2020 and will again not be recorded for 2021. We wanted this data published to showcase the improvements in standards across school. Predictions for this July would have resulted in outcomes across all measureable areas in school being above the national averages. However, we know in school that we are moving along a positive trajectory and will continue to do so. Our identified areas for development over the next twelve months will focus on;

- Implementing an active learning culture in school.
- Ensuring the provision and opportunities in school meet the needs of all learners.
- Increasing enrichment and 'greater depth' learning opportunities across the curriculum.



A concern in school continues to be the number of pupils on roll. We have struggled to go above 160 which still leaves us 50 short of capacity. This creates financial challenges which we are having to regularly address and are not sustainable in the long-term. The



governing body have made the recent decision to open a school based nursery provision at Melton Primary from September 2021. This will cater for 3 and 4 year-olds and, alongside the intended impact of increasing numbers, will enable us to improve the school readiness of the children who enter our Reception class. Plans on this are still in the early stages.



One other negative impact of the past year has been the reduction of our involvement with the local community. However, we have been delighted this term to welcome volunteers back into school and will, slowly, start to reintroduce community based activities in the coming months.

If you haven't yet seen our recently produced school promotional video, please spare a couple of minutes to watch. It will give you a good flavour of the school and the direction we are moving in.

<https://vimeo.com/475404284>



Best wishes and thank you for your support.

Alun Davies  
Headteacher

