

Annual Report to Parish Council

April 2022



Pupils at Melton Primary are enthusiastic learners. They benefit from a curriculum that excites their interests and extends their knowledge across a broad range of subjects. Pupils are achieving well and are well prepared for their next stage of education.

Pupils value the wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that are available, including sports and music.

From the moment they join the school, pupils develop their understanding of the world, and their responsibilities towards themselves and to others.

Pupils learn to understand and respect those who have different backgrounds or attitudes to themselves.

Ofsted September 2021

The school has enjoyed another eventful year with many highlights.

The year started with the opening of our new nursery class. This has been a long-term vision for the governing body, and we were all delighted to finally open our doors to three-year-olds. The positive impact of this addition will be seen for years to come as the children receive early support to acquire the key characteristics and skills which will make them 'school ready'. I have been fortunate to experience this as both head teacher and parent, as my son has been a member of the Owlets class.



The school welcomed a visit from Ofsted for an inspection at the end of September. The outcome was very pleasing and identified many positive aspects of the school. I am sure many of you will have read the full report, of which we are all very proud. This was well-deserved recognition for the combined efforts of the whole Melton Primary School community.

In school, our children have continued to enjoy a stimulating curriculum, with a range of enrichment activities not seen in many schools. Our newly developed curriculum is built around the history and geography of our local areas. This is a feature of Melton Primary that makes us unique. It enables the children to make lots of visits and develop a strong understanding of the area in which they live. If you are not a regular reader of the school newsletter, I would encourage you to keep in touch through our school website <https://www.melton.suffolk.sch.uk/news/>



The year hasn't been without its challenges. The past six months have seen the school more disrupted by Covid-19 than at any other time during the pandemic. Balancing 'returning to normal' with a high staff absence has been considerably challenging. I have a lot of sympathy for the children who have had an interrupted schooling since 2019.



The school has experienced an increase in the support needed by families as we have moved out of the pandemic. The past two years has had a significant impact on well-being across all aspects of society and we are seeing a significant increase in mental health concerns for both children and adults. Our Family Support Worker, Nikki Whinney, works closely with our families to signpost support available and our Early Help School Offer has been enhanced by daily well-being sessions for all children.



School has also continued to provide weekly food boxes for families who have made requests (currently 14 families). The boxes are provided through our partnership with FareShare. We have also been able to offer additional financial support for targeted families thanks to the generosity of The Melton Trust.

On behalf of the school, I would like to send our thanks to the Parish Council for allowing school use of the tennis courts on Melton Park over the last year. This has enabled us to introduce a new extra-curricular activity using a high-quality coach from Woodbridge tennis club. The sessions have proved very popular and are always over-subscribed. We are now on to our fourth cohort.



Following extensive building work in 2020/21, the focus has now turned to decorating and improving the internal space in school. We have opened a new library, had flooring replaced in four areas of the school and our school hall is being redecorated this week. This on-going project will ensure our children are learning in an appropriate environment.

As you may be aware, the coming term will be my last at Melton Primary. I have enjoyed four wonderful and successful years at the school, fortunate to build on the improvements made by Mark Girling. Mark and I have remained friends and I know he is just as pleased to see how the school has continued to move forward. I will be leaving the school at the end of August to join the School Improvement Team at Suffolk County Council. However, I am delighted to share that the governing body have appointed Caroline Richardson as the new head teacher. Caroline is an experienced school leader and is currently Academy Head at Kirkely Nursery & Early Years Centre of Excellence in Lowestoft, part of the Consortium Trust. Having met Caroline, I agree she seems to be the ideal person to continue the Melton journey.



Our chair of governors, Nick Wellington, will also be stepping down in the summer. Nick has been a member of the governing body for many years and has played a crucial part in securing the improvements the school has made in recent years. I am sure you will join me in thanking Nick for his hard work and commitment to the school. The governing body have succession planning in place to cover the role moving forward.

Best wishes and thank you for your support.

Alun Davies
Head teacher