

Crudwell CE Primary School report

The school roll has increased this year to 124 children – its highest to date and above its planned maximum size. However, we are due to increase again in September as 15 children leave us as they move on to secondary school and 18 children will join us in September.

Last year, our school data for Early Years, Year 1 phonics screening, Key Stage 1 SATS and Key Stage 2 SATS was all above National Standards. Phonics screening check results were particularly good and our Key Stage 1 data. We have always prided ourselves on achieving good standards without putting the children under undue pressure. Unfortunately, due to the changes to the curriculum since 2014 and the introduction nationally of a very different approach to tests, we are concerned our children will be much more aware of ‘testing’ this year and will inevitably feel more pressure and stress which as a staff concerns us greatly.

Despite the pressure of tests we have continued to teach the full range of the curriculum in as creative a way as we can, as well as offering a wide range of extra-curricula activities. Just a few of the highlights have been: Saxon Day; a Rio carnival experience; a performance of Baboushka; an open-air performance of a World War II drama ‘We’ll Meet Again’; a visit from our link school in Brno, Czech Republic; several theatre trips; participation in ‘Young Voices’ and a Wiltshire Music Festival recreation of the BBC Schools programme ‘Singing Together’; and the introduction of ‘Forest Schools’ for all year groups.

It would be impossible for us to offer all of these things if it weren’t for the support of our Parent and Friends association ‘FOCS’ and the Lord Lucas Trust. FOCS cover the cost of every child in the school going to the theatre, give us £1000 each year for books and another £1500 to enable teachers to buy additional resources for the classroom. They have also bought a projector and large screen that has really enhanced presentation and teaching opportunities in the school hall. Lord Lucas Trust have been extremely supportive of our link with Brno by providing some much needed finance to make this an enjoyable educational visit. They have also given us a substantial sum of money to update our IT provision in the school through the purchase of ‘LearnPad’ tablets. As a school we really appreciate everything both FOCS and Lord Lucas Trust give. We also appreciate the support the Parish Council give us each year in encouraging Citizenship within our children.

As well as receiving funds, the school has continued to support a range of charities through various fundraising events such as a sponsored walk for Julie’s House Children’s Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support, Help the Heroes and Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox Appeal.

We have also continued to work closely with both the Church, the Parish Council and Crudwell Pre-school. Working with others within the community is a vital part of what we do. We look forward to our visits from the church ‘Open the Book’ team every fortnight, from Rev. Phil and the church ladies. We are looking forward to welcoming some of the older members of the community to our ‘Tea for the Queen’ on Friday 10th June.

Finally, given the current national debate about academisation, Crudwell continues to work in collaboration with a group of schools locally, known collectively as the Hobbes Alliance (named after the Malmesbury philosopher, Thomas Hobbes). Collaboration offers huge benefits for the children, the staff and the school, without the need to form an academy. None of the schools believe academisation offers any additional benefits to the children, especially as we are all currently good or outstanding schools. However, we will continue to explore all of the options between now and 2022 – presently the deadline given by the government.