
Claydon Primary School

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Staffing

During the last year, we have welcomed new staff to the school and said farewell to some who have moved on to other challenges. For the first time, we have also had an apprentice in our school office who has sadly moved onto another opportunity but we hope to offer an apprenticeship again to some youngsters in the Autumn.

Pupil Matters

We are delighted to report the number of pupils who attend our school is still gradually increasing and currently is 417 (including 26 children who are part-time in our Nursery class). Our Nursery and Year 4 classes are full but we still have places available in other year groups. Whilst the majority of our pupils live in Claydon, Barham and Great Blakenham, there continue to be parents who choose to bring their children to our school from other areas – mainly from the edge of Ipswich. Whilst we are delighted to be a school of choice in the wider locality, we continue to urge parents of children in our catchment area to apply for places as these applications are given priority over those who live elsewhere.

Last summer, our pupils were assessed at various statutory points in their learning journey.

- At the end of Reception, our 5 year olds are assessed and again the number of children who achieved a 'good level of development' was well above the national figure.
- At the end of Key Stage One, our 7 year olds are assessed and last year there were lots of changes to the curriculum and the expectations for these pupils. Staff and pupils rose to the challenge and we were delighted with their results as they were broadly in line with national data for the numbers of pupils achieving the expected level. We are especially proud that the percentage of pupils who achieved at a 'greater depth' was higher than the national in all subjects.
- At the end of Key Stage Two, our 11 year olds are also assessed in reading, writing, maths and science and they take the national tests, known as 'SATS'. When compared with national data, their progress was average in reading and maths but below average for writing. Again expectations had been changed and are now much higher - we were proud with how hard the pupils and teachers worked to tackle the new tests.

Once again, visits and visitors to our school continue to play an important part of learning and are a feature of our work. In October, 52 Year 6 children spent a 4 days at Hilltop, an outdoor education centre near Sheringham and our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a night at Blaxhall Youth Hostel in May whilst visiting Minsmere RSPB reserve for two days. During the year there have also been visits to Colchester Zoo, Mountfitchet Castle, Duxford Imperial War Museum, Ipswich Museum, Suffolk Schools Farm Fair, SITA Energy From Waste site at Great Blakenham, Needham Lake, Felixstowe beach, Hollowtrees Farm and the Crucial Crew event at Stowmarket. Younger pupils are often out and about in Barham and Claydon learning about the local environment and we would like to again say thank you to those in local businesses who welcome them with great patience. As a school we are also grateful for the support of parents who fund the cost of visits and to staff who give up a considerable amount of time to organise and run them.

At Christmas our younger children entertained their parents with a production of a Nativity story entitled 'Lights, Camel Action' which was loosely based on 'Strictly Come Dancing' and we are looking forward to a Year 5 and 6

production in the Summer term. Year 3 again led a Carol Concert at Barham Church for their friends and family and in the summer term, Year 4 performed on their violins and brass instruments to their parents.

During the last year, we have enjoyed many sporting challenges – netball, football, athletics, basketball, cricket, cross-country, swimming, tag rugby and hockey teams all participated in local school events. To acknowledge our participation in sport, in September we were awarded the 'Sainsburys School Games Silver Award'.

Community Links

The school recorder group and Year 5 brass band were invited to perform at the Community Carol Service at Great Blakenham Baptist Church. The church was full with people who had attended their community Christmas lunch. Year 2 visited the Old Rectory Nursing Home and sang some of the songs from their Nativity performance.

Mary Ashcroft
Headteacher