
Claydon Primary School

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ANNUAL UPDATE TO LOCAL PARISH COUNCILS

Staffing

During the last year, we have again welcomed new staff to the school and said farewell to some who have moved on to new challenges. For many families, it was the end of an era last summer when Mrs Rayner retired. We are delighted that she still works for us on an occasional basis and during the forthcoming summer term she is back short-term teaching a class for two days each week.

Returning to school after Easter last year, was a very sad time for the school community as we learnt of the sudden death of one of our teachers, Mr Doody. The strength of the school community was incredible as we came to terms with this. Mr Doody was a highly respected teacher is dearly missed, particularly by the children who were in his class and staff who worked closely him. Through many kind donations of time, money and resources, we have created an area on our school field where we have a bench and picnic tables in his memory.

Pupil Matters

Currently our school has just one space not taken and 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. We are delighted to be a school of choice in the wider locality but we continue to urge parents of children in our catchment area to apply for places - these applications are given priority over those who live elsewhere. To date, all children in our catchment area applying for places in Reception are being successful in being allocated spaces.

We are very proud to report that last summer saw the school achieving our best set of results ever. We are especially proud of our children who were in Year 1 (6 year olds) who worked really hard with their phonics in order to achieve the standard required when they were assessed. The number of children who achieved this was above the national figure. At the end of Key Stage One, our 7 year olds are assessed and they too rose to the challenge and our results were above the national in all subjects - reading, writing and maths. 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'. Expectations have been changed in recent years and are now much higher – many adults would struggle with some of the test questions! We were proud with how hard the pupils worked to tackle the tests and especially proud of our results which were all above the national figures.

At Christmas our younger children entertained their parents with a production of a Nativity story entitled 'A King is Born', our Nursery children sang Christmas songs on the school stage and Year 3 led a Carol Concert at Barham Church. Later this year, Year 4 will perform on their violins and brass instruments to their parents and we are looking forward to a Year 5's annual production. A highlight of the summer term is always the Year 6 Leavers Service at Barham Church, where our Year 6 pupils share their reflections before moving to High Schools.

During the last year, we have again enjoyed many sporting challenges – netball, football, athletics, basketball, cricket, cross-country, swimming, gymnastics, 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 Gold Award'.

Community Links

The school recorder group and violin players were invited to perform at the Community Carol Service at Great Blakenham Baptist Church. The church was full with people who then stayed to enjoy their community Christmas lunch. Year 3 visited the Old Rectory Nursing Home and sang some of the songs from their Christmas Carol Concert and they also entertained shoppers outside Barham Co-op.

Exciting Developments

The Building Project

We are delighted that the planned expansion of the school is well underway with the building of the new block on Claydon High School's field. This building will provide 5 more classrooms and a small studio hall and will be occupied by our older children, thereby releasing more classrooms in the current building for younger children. From this September, there will be an increase from 60 to 75 places for Reception children and the school will gradually grow each year as greater numbers join us. Internal alterations are planned in the current building to ensure that we can function as a larger school. As part of this project we are pleased that the car park at the Recreation Ground is being improved to encourage more responsible parking by our parents. Although the start of the project was delayed and the summer is likely to be challenging as we move towards completion, we are fortunate to have a very committed and loyal team managing the project for SEH French - they are ex-pupils!

Becoming an Academy

On 1st July 2018, Claydon Primary School joined South Suffolk Learning Trust – a local academy trust which includes Claydon High School. This secures the future of our school and should benefit the children of our locality as we further collaborate with the High School.

Expansion of our Nursery

From September 2019, we are also planning to expand the provision in our nursery class. For some years we have only opened our nursery in the mornings. However, as we have been oversubscribed for the last couple of years and many parents now have the opportunity to have 30 hours of provision funded, from September we will be open for full days. We hope that this will provide more flexible provision for parents and enable more children to have the opportunity to attend our nursery.

Mary Ashcroft
Headteacher