



## Report to Parish Council meeting MAY 2023

### Note from Head Teacher:

I am delighted to be so warmly welcomed to Marhamchurch C of E Academy and into the community. It is a privilege to work alongside colleagues in our Trust, including St Marks, Morwenstow and Jacobstow. My previous leadership roles have been in the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust where I have been leading small schools for the last 7 years.

It has been a busy 6 weeks so far but what a wonderful, caring team at the school to be part of. Our first service at Easter in St Marwennes was fantastic, the children really enjoyed having their parents in our beautiful, local church. I wish to work closely with the whole community so that we can maximise the educational and enrichment opportunities for all our local children.

*D Petersen*

### CONTEXT –

Marhamchurch C of E Academy is now part of the LAP (Learning Academy Partnership) South West – since November 2023. New Head Teacher, Mrs Deirdre Petersen, has been appointed in March 2023.

Our Trust values are EMPOWER, EXCEL, TOGETHER. We believe the Christian ethos that permeates our Trust leads to trusting relationships, productive classrooms and an inclusive, caring community. We learn, reflect and grow together towards a future where everyone can flourish.

Pupil numbers – 119 (capacity 140) rising to 123 after May half term.

Classes named after local Cornish birds – Owls, Puffins, Kingfishers, Choughs, Kestrels.

SEND (Special Educational Needs) – 19%

Pupil premium (free school meals children, vulnerable children) – 19%

Last Ofsted – GOOD, due another 2 day inspection as standards of curriculum and assessment not improved sufficiently.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT –

Revamped school vision and core Christian values since arrival of new leadership. '*Life in all it's Fullness*' John 10:10/ core values – Hope, Compassion, Respect, Friendship, Courage, Thankfulness. Our vision is to become an exceptional, inclusive church school committed to a mission that enables children to flourish. Marhamchurch C of E Academy is a school working in partnership with parents and the community to provide a caring, inspiring learning environment rooted in our core Christian values. We aim to foster and nurture the Christian faith and ethos of the Church of England to enable all members of our school community to develop spiritually, socially, intellectually and emotionally so that everyone can flourish.



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Collective worship is run by Open the Book, Head teacher, teachers and pupils (Collective Worship club); prayer at lunchtime and reflective areas in classrooms underway. Collective worship has been a central part of our day and provides opportunities for our school community to share our Trust and school core Christian values. This term we look closely at the value of HOPE and we have been preparing for and celebrating the season of Lent and Easter through our 'Open the Book' collective worship. The children have brought the Easter story alive through role play and enacting the events leading up to Easter as well as looking at how artists depict the Easter story.

New class structure will be in place for September. Less mixed age groups/ separated age groups and more focus on peers learning together on their age related curriculum.

Teaching and learning improvements underway through weekly coaching and professional development in place for Reading, Maths. Wider curriculum development in design stage – to be launched September 2023.

### ENRICHMENT, TRIPS and VISITS –

Enrichment opportunities are plenty with recent trips to Newquay zoo. We learnt about conserving our wildlife and protecting rare and endangered species.

In addition, Choughs class enjoyed their Farm and Country School Event at The Royal Cornwall Showground. It was a hands-on experience, learning where food comes from and the processes it follows from farm to plate. The children learnt how local ice-cream and Cornish Yarg cheese. They also discovered how vegetables are planted, had a go at milking, making eggy bread, wrapping hay, auctioneering as well as handling baby animals. Parent volunteers are in place to help with outings – adult/pupil ratios and checking process for volunteers is in place.

Kestrals spent a morning at Bude Methodist church for an 'Explore Easter' event. This linked beautifully with our collective worship on the Easter story and the children took away some great reflection and learning.

### SPORTING NEWS –

This continues to be an area of excellence for the school. We have a house system where the children are in teams for Sports Day, 23.05.23. The children excel in gymnastics, athletics, cross country, netball and football. We engage in a full calendar of events at Budehaven. They have multiple morning, lunchtime and after school clubs including running, dance, gymnastics and multi-skills.

Achievements this year have been – Sports Hall athletics (2<sup>nd</sup> place overall); Cornwall School Games finals for cross country – 10 pupils qualified; pupil selection for 'Born to Win' talent development finals – multi disciplinary sports for the elite academy at Budehaven. North Devon Schools Gymnastics competition – 2 team bronzes, 3 team silver medals, 3 team gold awards plus 7 individual medals.

PUPIL VOICE – School Council will update.