



Report to Parish Council meeting MAY 2024

Note from the Head Teacher:

It has been a successful first year in post at Marhamchurch C of E Academy and I am so proud of all the improvements made to the school within this time but am particularly proud of how our children demonstrate our school vision and values 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). On reflection, I feel a deep privilege to be serving this wonderful community and our local families. The staff team at Marhamchurch have had intense professional development and have shown such care and commitment in their work, that all our local children and families deserve.

Our recent Ofsted inspection came upon us a little earlier than expected! Overall, I am delighted with how the report reflects the 'green shoots' of improvement made to benefit all our local children. Personal development and behaviour has been deemed excellent - this is due to reforms in curriculum and a drive for the highest of expectations from everyone in our school community.

I have shared some of the highlights of our inspection below.

Kindest wishes,

CONTEXT -

Marhamchurch C of E Adademy is part of the LAP (Learning Academy Partnership) SW.

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 - the number of pupils is growing and we have had many in year admissions from Bude Infants and Stratton - both families choosing a C of E school, a smaller school and families moving into the area. Our Early Years is growing from 14 this year to 30 in September. This will future proof the school and enable us to grow from the roots and aim for a one form entry school (one year group per class).

Capacity for the school is 140 - we have grown from 119 to 128 in the past year and are set to reach 137 by September 2024.



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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT -

Our recent Ofsted has highlighted the following:

'Marhamchurch is a happy, calm and safe environment for pupils. They enjoy school and have positive attitudes to learning. Children in the early years show sustained concentration in tasks. Older pupils show care and compassion towards their younger peers at playtimes. Pupils speak to visitors with both courtesy and confidence. Bullying is not an issue.'

'The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.'

'Trustees and members of the local ethos and advisory committee have an accurate picture of the school. They are clear that while many improvements have been made, much of the work is at a relatively early stage.'

'Reading is at the front and centre of the school's curriculum'

'The transfer to the current trust has been a positive one. It has started to address the many weaknesses in the curriculum. There are green shoots emerging, particularly in pupils knowing more and remembering more over time.'

'The school has put in place an extensive amount of training and support for staff to help them to teach well. This includes the accurate identification of pupils with SEND. Teachers have started to better adapt provision to meet pupils' needs.'

'Pupils demonstrate great maturity and tolerance when discussing issues of discrimination, such as racism and sexism.'

'the school has started to broaden its offer beyond the academic further in order to align with its vision of 'Life in all its fullness'. Pupils learn to play a range of musical instruments. Playground leaders and 'Values Champions' give pupils an active role in the running of the school, such as leading assemblies.'

Class structure and staffing is set to be the same as last year to maintain consistency and sustain improvement. Leadership structure for the Cornwall hub of 3 schools is changing, allowing leadership growth and development and more collaborative working. Deirdre Petersen will be the Hub Lead for 3 schools and oversee leadership development and the offer for all our local children, keeping her substantive role as Head Teacher for Marhamchurch C of E Academy.



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ENRICHMENT, TRIPS and VISITS -

Opportunities this academic year have included Beach school with the Two Minute Foundation, Surfing lessons for Y6, an increase in outdoor learning with improvements made in our outdoor classroom so that it is useable all year round. Trips to Eden Project, Hall for Cornwall for Theatre trip and local walks to enrich the curriculum. The aim is to start local and then look nationally and globally (through online access and wider opportunities).

Art and culture - virtual lessons with the V&A museum, London.

Bude Literacy festival - author visits to all year groups.

Home learning celebration for parents - classroom/ gallery spaces open. Learning projects based on wider curriculum enrichment.

Hub day for Y3/4 children across the Cornwall Hub - Music, Art and Writing workshops.

Music - increase in peripatetic lessons - woodwind, guitar, piano.

ASONE workshops for KS2 - singing and songwriting.

Whole class brass lessons - Cornwall Music hub.

School choir growing - Songfest, singing in the community.

Triggshire woodwind quartet recital (Hub day).

Sport - Gymnastics County finals, Cross country finals, Small School Athletics, Cornwall School Games, Primary School Games Netball, KS2 Football festival, Sports Day, Fencing Club as well as a wide variety of clubs/ after school provision.

Church and wider community - Messy Church club weekly, Open the Book weekly, Explore Easter, Bude Methodist Church, Easter service St Marwennes. PFSA Easter fayre and hunt, Leavers Service, use of the Church as a learning space (RE lessons).

LOOKING AHEAD -

All our local children will be using the Forest School site in the village from Autumn term 2024. There is a new licence agreement in place with the local landowner. It is exciting to be able to use this space (only used one day per week by Pre-school) so that all local children can benefit.

Continued school improvement and swift actions on the recent Ofsted areas for development are key to the success of the school. Development of leadership across the Hub is part of this improvement plan.