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Holy Trinity CE
Primary School

Governors' Annual Report



YEAR 6 DEVON TRIP

Issue 7
2020-21

CLAP FOR TEACHERS

None of us wants a recap of this last academic year. While there are no KS1 or KS2 results to report, there is still plenty to celebrate at Holy Trinity:

- School attendance has been very high with overall attendance for the year, when school was fully open, at over 97%; many classes often achieved 100% attendance
- Our Reception children achieved a GLD (Good Level of Development) of 89% a measure of their attainment against a set of 17 Early Learning Goals; the national average is around 70%
- The PTA has, even without the usual calendar of live events, raised over £21k which is remarkable in a year when parents have scarcely set foot on the school premises
- The Kingfisher Fund, the voluntary fund for parents to donate to the school, now stands at over £30,000 for which we are very grateful
- HT was awarded the Bronze Eco Award in recognition of our committed eco committee and staff and parent supporters dedicated to creating a more sustainable school
- Every class took part in a Prayer Space week themed around the school values, culminating in a big rainbow mural made up of prayers written on coloured handprints.

This term children have managed to go on two wonderful residential

school trips - Year 6 went to Devon and Year 5 to the Surrey Hills - plus there was a school outing for years 1 to 6 to the Barnes Children's Literature Festival and for Reception to Bocketts Farm.

Children have taken part in the Young Voices Biggest Sing alongside 300,000 other youngsters around the UK to create a world record for the largest simultaneous sing.

The school has launched a new website for which huge thanks must go to **Lucy Ashby** and former parent, **Jenny Howe**.

Annual activities like Bake Off, the Easter egg decorating competition, World Book Day, Sports Day, the Year 6 leavers' production and church service and the Summer Fair have all managed to take place, albeit often in a modified way.

Governors would also like to recognise the dedication and hard work of our head teacher, Alison Bateman and her Senior Leadership Team in guiding the school through this year.

Teachers and assistant teachers have enabled our pupils to continue learning, whether at home on computers or back in school. Their commitment to helping our children to achieve their best under difficult circumstances is exemplary and we are fortunate in having so many talented staff at Holy Trinity.



YEAR 6 DEVON FUN

LED BY SCIENCE

One of our School Development Plan objectives this year was to achieve the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM); we were, therefore, delighted to announce just before May half term that we had been awarded the prestigious Gilt award.

The PSQM is quite different to many of the awards schools attain. This is a year-long programme of CPD (continued professional development) and professional mentoring aimed at raising the profile of science in schools by inspiring effective and confident science leadership.

Our intention, despite all the obstacles of remotely teaching a largely practical subject, didn't waiver and **Mandie Lambert**, our science lead, submitted the required portfolio of evidence in February. The Gilt level of award is for schools with an established strong science leadership that can show sustained impact on science teaching and learning.

Holy Trinity was previously awarded a PSQM gold award in 2015-16 but since then the scheme has been revised, making it more difficult to achieve. While some 600 schools annually receive a PSQM in the UK, most are at the basic level.

The Gilt award has a strong community focus and looks at science teaching across the school with an element of outreach. This brings it more in line with HT's 5-year strategy and our core values.

For governors, science is a strategic focus and we ask Mandie to present every year what is happening across school; additionally, our science governor, currently **Jane Nicholls**, attends occasional science lessons, looks at children's books, observes their experiments and talks to them about what they like about the subject. This year she was able to get a glimpse of Science Week with its theme of Innovating for the Future where pupils had to design a space suit to

protect astronauts from UV rays.

Holy Trinity is very fortunate in having Mandie as our science leader not only for her passion for the subject and long teaching experience but also because she is a Science Borough Advisor, helping to mentor other schools in improving their science teaching.



The PSQM assessor praised our submission and held it up as a "glowing example of a Gilt PSQM submission."

She added, "There is clearly a strong ongoing commitment from all staff at Holy Trinity to provide the best possible science learning experience for all pupils, driven by dedicated and enthusiastic subject leadership."

"The impact on both pupils and staff is substantial and the subject leaders should be immensely proud of what they have achieved in very challenging circumstances."

The governors wish to thank Mandie and all staff involved in achieving this prestigious award - the next challenge, building on our already solid and secure base in science, is the Outreach level of PSQM in three years' time!



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Nobody would have chosen this to be their child's first or last experience of primary school, nor frankly any year in between, yet school leaders and governors have been heartened by the many supportive messages from parents over the year and the engagement of pupils during 2020-2021.

Response was greater than last year to our annual Parent & Carers Survey, with feedback representing almost 40% of pupils which is excellent.

On most questions, your answers were more positive than 12 months ago, belying the negative press coverage about lost education and a wasted year for children.

Here are some of the headline findings from the parent questionnaire:

- 98.5% of parents say their child is happy at HT (up from 93.8% last year)
- 100% say their child feels safe here
- 93% believe the school is well led and managed (compared with 85.6% last year)
- 95% say the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
- 84.5% say we make parents aware of what their child will learn during the year (up from 79% last year)
- 96% believe their child does well at HT
- 89% would recommend HT to another family (up from 84.5% last year)
- 86% see evidence of the Christian vision and values in their child's experience of school (compared with 72% last year when we had only recently introduced our new vision and values)
- 94.6% say the school's response to the pandemic enabled their child to continue learning (up from 90% after the first lockdown in 2020 and before we began live online teaching).

The complete survey can be found on the school website where you can see full comparisons with last year's findings.

Pleasing as it may be to get a pat on the back, the purpose of these annual questionnaires is to see where we need to improve so we welcome the comments parents leave.

We pass on the praise where staff are mentioned by name and were glad to know how well our lockdown learning was received. But we also take heed of the negatives.

Two recurring themes to address next year are to gain a better understanding of how we challenge pupils and rebuilding our sense of community.



What about the children?

Again, we received a higher number of responses than last year which helps to make the survey more representative. In many cases, the replies were less positive than last year - some children feel less challenged and are enjoying their learning less than before, most likely an impact of online teaching and the need to catch up and revise once school reopened. Remote learning fatigue was evident also with only 79% of pupils saying teachers had made it easy to continue learning when school was closed, as opposed to 91% after the first lockdown in 2020.

Important aspects like good behaviour, safety, mutual respect and handling bullying have not varied in our pupils' perception of school life.

Encouragingly, 83% of pupils say they are enjoying school and 86% say their teachers help them to do their best.

We asked children if they had any suggestions to improve Holy Trinity.

Three-day weekends, more fish fingers and longer playtimes were some ideas but on the whole our pupils like things as they are.

One child's comment speaks for many:

"I love the atmosphere, everyone is really friendly and I know if I needed help I could always talk to someone,"

SCHOOL STREETS

Last autumn Holy Trinity became one of the pioneers of a trial scheme called 'School Streets' along with a number of schools in Richmond and Wandsworth.

By means of a temporary barrier manned by volunteer parents, we closed Carrington Road to traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, preventing vehicular access to anybody but residents.

The object was to reduce the potential for accidents and pollution from cars around school. The scheme was paused during the January lockdown and resumed when HT reopened in March.

The initiative speaks directly to the heart of our 5-year strategy and our core value of community. One way in which we can make a positive impact on preserving God's creation is by trying to lessen our carbon footprint and reduce pollution. Children's safety is also paramount. Naturally we were keen to get on board.

Our community has welcomed the scheme and adapted well to the changes, sometimes slightly inconvenient, that School Streets has required.

For families who still need to drive to school, they now park further away and walk the last part of the journey; for many it has meant walking, cycling or scooting rather than getting in the car, perhaps even allowing more time to get to school in the mornings.

One parent said in the annual questionnaire, "One stand-out thing about HT is the school street, it's lovely to walk/cycle to school."

Having Carrington Road pedestrianised has made for calmer and more friendly drop-off and pick-up times and made it easier for parents and carers to distance while they wait.

"Parents have embraced the idea, I have received a lot of grateful comments from parents when I have been manning the barrier," says **Andrew Ciechan**, one of the volunteers.

"Air quality has definitely improved in Carrington Road."

"Moreover," Andrew adds, "residents are pleased not to have cars blocking their driveway so they like the scheme."

"I would like to see every school in the borough part of a School Street," says **Tim Lennon**, another volunteer.

"Paving the gravel section from the Upper Richmond Road would be helpful for cyclists and perhaps a crossing on Manor Road too."

We await the outcome of the recent borough-wide consultation on the School Streets but there is evidently strong support in our community to make it permanent.

Thank you for supporting the scheme and governors are particularly grateful to the volunteers manning the barrier.



MR BIKE VISTS AS PART OF SCHOOL STREETS INITIATIVE

NEXT STEPS

We are saying goodbye to six teachers at the end of this term. Cumulatively they have taught over 50 classes worth of HT pupils! We are proud of having such long-standing staff and, while they don't get a leavers hoodie, we can celebrate their contribution.



We spoke to them about their time at HT, the changes they've seen and what they will miss most

Natalie Cruz joined Holy Trinity in April 2002 having taught previously in Milan. She is our longest serving staff member.

When Natalie started, we were a small one-form entry primary where the entire school could gather for assembly in the space that is now the Junior Library. Her first class was located where the Infant Library and Year 1 boys' toilets are, and forms were named after the teacher, later a colour and then an animal.

HT was literally like a family - Natalie has taught the children of countless staff members - including Mrs Bell's daughter, who now works in Kingfisher Club, and Mrs Auton's daughter who is, of course, Mr Auton's sister.

She looks back over her years here, "I have so many fond memories of the children including cooking with Mrs Hill, Friday afternoon art, dancing and ice cream with Mrs Flynn and threading needle after needle as we taught the children blanket stitch."

On a personal level, in the 19 years, Natalie has got married and had two daughters. While she will miss the children at Holy Trinity, the friendships and the community, she is looking forward to a new adventure as she relocates to Porthtowan in Cornwall with her family.

Natalie is keeping an open mind about what comes next once she's settled into her new home - setting up as a local artist, some part-time teaching or maybe starting a holiday lettings business?

Jenny Trought joined Holy Trinity in 2009 and remembers her first class having only 15 pupils. Staff, naturally far fewer of them, took their breaks in what is now the school kitchen and there was room to spare.

Over her 12 years, Jenny has taught every year group, except the Early Years, and has been the RE curriculum leader while working full and part-time. She has enjoyed being part of a church school where worship and RE are valued, where faith and belief of all kinds are respected and discussed with interest and enthusiasm by the children. RE teaching has developed and flourished under Jenny's leadership.

Jenny herself during this period has bought a new house, renovated it twice and had two daughters, now aged 8 and 3.

She will miss spending time with the children and colleagues, "I have loved meeting so many fantastic children who have challenged me, made me laugh and kept me on my toes every day. I love seeing the progress they make and sharing their pride when they've produced excellent work or made a perceptive comment.

"It's been a privilege to work alongside colleagues who have been great examples of living out their faith."

Jenny intends to make the most of her younger daughter's last year before starting school and will then consider some volunteering or a part-time teaching position.



Daniel O'Sullivan started at Holy Trinity in January 2013 and has worked in every year group - except the Nursery. Having steered the Junior Leadership Team he is well known by the pupils and, more recently, has championed the teaching of Latin at school and introduced the children to Minimus the mouse and Roman life in Vindolanda.

Reluctant to embrace fully the life of the retiree, Daniel plans to do some voluntary work, walking trips, kayaking, playing the guitar and, hopefully, some travelling. The pipe and slippers can wait.

Asked what he has most enjoyed about teaching, Daniel said, "Witnessing children achieve something or perform in a way they didn't know they were capable of. Those "penny's dropped" moments, though not frequent, are utterly delightful when they happen.

"What I will miss most is their energy, enthusiasm and innocence. And their laughter while learning."



Anna Lane joined as a newly qualified teacher four years ago and has taught in Year 1 and Year 6 so has had very differing experiences of Holy Trinity's pupils. In this short time, she has also had subject leadership experience in PSHE, computing and maths.

"I have absolutely loved my time here and really appreciate how I was welcomed and supported. I will miss the HT community," Anna said.

Away from school, Anna has got married since joining and while she's

leaving the teaching profession will continue to educate and work with children. Her next role will be as a Children's and Youth Worker at a church in Worcester Park.

Lily Bayley has been the Eagle class teacher (Yr 5) for the last year, joining us on a fixed one-year contract. Having previously taught in a school in the West Midlands that she describes as "gruelling," Holy Trinity has provided a welcome change.

"I have enjoyed working within such a positive and relaxed school environment," she says.

Lily plans to take a break from teaching and explore alternative career paths.



Hannah Gibbard has been at Holy Trinity since 2015. She currently works part-time in Year 6 and is now stepping back from teaching. She remains part of our community with her son going into Year 5 and her daughter into Year 1 in September.



In addition, **Zoe Neal** who was our Early Years phase leader chose not to return to school when her maternity leave ended in the Spring having moved house to Herefordshire.

The governors would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all these teachers, for their commitment and huge contributions in educating hundreds of Holy Trinity pupils. Please keep in touch and we wish you every success with your new ventures.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

It is always exciting to boost our school community with new baby arrivals among our staff.

Since last Summer's Governor Annual Report we have celebrated the birth of Evie for **Hollie Dewale**, another Evie for **Laura Griffiths**, Flossie for **Zoe Neal** and, very recently, Clara for **Lydia Palmer**.

Strange to report, last year's list were all boys.

This term also saw our Nursery teacher, **Hannah Lockey** and **Wade Tomlinson** tying the knot.

Warmest congratulations to all.

As well as welcoming **Harriet Brown**, **Hollie Dewale** and **Laura Griffiths** back from maternity leave, next term we will have four new teachers in school: **Jo Hayles**, **Brendan Honnery**, **Mazin Al-Warith** and **Chanelle O'Brien**.

HOLY TRINITY'S GOT TALENT

We have been fortunate to have some very creative parents who have helped to produce this Governors' Annual Report in recent years.

They have also been responsible for the design and layout of the fabulous school newspaper, Kingfisher Frenzy, that year 6 pupils publish twice a year.

Thank you, **Maryna Stylianou**, and thank you **Becky Jeffries** before her. Sadly for us, Maryna's youngest daughter, Grace is leaving HT now and we are looking for new talent.

If there are any parents with design skills and relevant software who would like to get involved with these projects, then please contact: **Alison Bateman** on abateman@htprimary.com.

A final word of thanks to all our parents and carers at Holy Trinity.

We have been so grateful for everybody's support and flexibility over this difficult year.

We have missed being able to come together and socialise and know it's not just the children whose school experience has been interrupted.

The Governors wish you all a blessed and restful summer break and hope next year sees a return to greater normality.

We now say goodbye to our cohort of Year 6s - **Seals and Otters** - as they make the transition to secondary school.

We send them with our very best wishes for the future and hoping they continue to love learning, find new passions and come back to visit HT.

Our Seals and Otters are going to the following schools from September:

Christ's School	17
Grey Court School	3
Harrodian	1
Ibstock Place School	1
Kingston Grammar School	1
Kingston Academy	2
Orleans Park School	3
Radnor House	1
Richmond Park Academy	12
Richmond Upon Thames School	2
St Richard Reynolds	2
Surbiton High School	2
The Arts Educational School	1
Twickenham Academy	2
Waldegrave School	1

