

# Another great year at Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School

## A summary from the Governors - July 2016

### Our pupils' achievements and our work to improve

Our teachers constantly assess individual pupil's progress - it is fundamental to learning and teaching in our school and it allows teachers to report accurately to parents. We know from teacher assessments, using the 'best fit' methods of recent years, that our children have made good progress this year in all subjects. As many parents will be aware, during the course of the year the government has introduced new methods of assessing progress. Children are only described as reaching 'expected' levels if they achieve every one of the government's targets in key stage tests rather than a best fit. Our strict interpretation of these new standards means that our Year 2 outcomes for writing show a dip this year.

- At the end of Year 2, 74% of children have reached the expected standard in reading and maths.
- Writing will remain a focus area across all years.
- The number of children passing the phonics screening check in Year 1 rose to 85% (compared to 77% last year's nationally).
- At the end of the foundation stage, 65% of our children attained a 'good level of development' (compared to 66% last year nationally).

### A strong curriculum



- Children collaborate to perform a group story in a literacy lesson. We continue to develop Talk for Writing and Big Write as fun and effective whole school approaches, and they have again been the focus for well-received parent-lunch workshops.
- Big Maths is also having a big impact. Here children play a game to learn how to round numbers to the nearest ten.
- Investigative science has taken children all the way from forecasting the weather to outer space: they researched the UK weather and presented their own forecast to the class using ICT equipment (over), and they planted seeds that had spent months in space with astronaut Tim Peake.



- Early Years staff joined in a successful staff development programme for settings across north Shropshire, with some of our teachers delivering the courses.
- In Rhyl children went beachcombing, collecting natural objects to make 'beach art' based on the work of Andy Goldsworthy.
- A special maths day at the Longslow site of our nursery was held in conjunction with the Children's Centre.
- Our PE and sports programme goes from strength to strength (see report on website). We support children entitled to Pupil Premium (former free school meals) with the cost of kit and our wide range of after-school activities including gymnastics, multi-sports and juditsu.

## Our strategic plan and challenges ahead

Following two workshop sessions and consultation with staff, governors agreed a strategic plan for the next three years. This plan lists key objectives against each of our school aims, and includes commitments to a broad curriculum and to ensuring that the school is an inclusive one. Over the period of the plan we want to:

- Significantly expand our forest garden area and
  - Encourage and develop opportunities for community use of school facilities
- The plan also identifies two major challenges currently facing governors and describes our approach to them:
- The Local Authority projects a shortage of school places within Market Drayton over the next few years. We will work proactively with the other town schools to ensure there is adequate provision within their own community for all children in our school catchment area.
  - The government intends that all schools become academies, and form Multi Academy Trusts, by 2020. Governors are exploring various options, in cooperation with our fellow schools in the Market Drayton Learning Partnership. We want to make the most of opportunities for furthering the visions of our school and the partnership while minimising the threats to them.



### School Governors

The governors' page on the school website tells you who we are, who appointed us, which committees we serve on, and our attendance record. It also lists our relevant business or other interests. It's our job to make sure that everything is in place so that children can do their best learning. We agree our strategic direction. We monitor and evaluate the school's work, acting as a critical friend to the headteacher. And we are accountable for progress at the school. Our chair John Hargreaves is usually in school during parents evenings and values the opportunity to speak with parents.

### Strengthening our Cooperative Trust

Trustees of the Market Drayton Learning Partnership, which includes the headteacher and chair of governors of the Infant School, meet each term and recently held their first Annual General Meeting. A report for this AGM listing achievements and performance so far, and outlining plans for the coming year, can be seen on the school website. The MDLP's stakeholder forum also meets each term and all parents are welcome to participate. The next forum meeting will be at the Junior School, at 6pm on Tuesday 22 November.



**Market Drayton Infant School - "An excellent, happy school where we enjoy learning"**