



Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School

'An excellent, happy school where we enjoy learning'

A summary from the Governors - July 2022



We hoped September 2021 would see us back to 'normal life' in schools, however COVID was still there. Children and staff, particularly in the Spring Term, had to isolate due to having COVID. Risk assessments changed on a monthly basis however April came and it felt like COVID had just disappeared. No testing, shorter isolations and almost back to reality. This felt strange to a lot of us. We have delivered the curriculum as normal and have even been on trips, started swimming again and had visitors and parents coming in to school. Seeing parents back at sports day events has been wonderful. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the work that has been going on over the past year.

The development of the curriculum has remained a focus for the school to ensure that there is a progressive and cohesive structure in place. This year, we have had the opportunity to learn more about the Geography, Maths and the new RE curriculum through visits to school and during governor meetings. School leaders and teaching staff have reviewed many areas of the school curriculum with a big focus on the teaching of reading and we have seen a huge change in the way phonics is taught through the introduction of a program called Essential Letters and Sounds. Ros Thomas (Vice Chair) has helped review the curriculum offer on the website and you can now view all the information about each curriculum area under the 'curriculum' tab for parents <https://www.marketdraytoninfants.co.uk/curriculum/> and 'class pages' for children <https://www.marketdraytoninfants.co.uk/class-pages/>.

Link governors have visited linking to the School Improvement Plan (SIP):

'It should be noted how hard all staff have worked to create this culture in school. The already good practise in reading has been tweaked following the last reading review and the progress is evident. The children are confident to read and talk about a love of reading. This is not easy to do! It takes commitment from all staff and careful monitoring.'

Each term, as Chair of Governors I meet with all the other Chairs of Governors from schools within the Empower Trust; this allows us to share best practices and discuss how to further develop our roles when working with our individual schools. The role of being a governor is a voluntary one, where we support and challenge keeping the children's education at the heart of everything we do.



Feedback from the parents' questionnaire Summer 2022:

- *I am really impressed with the inclusiveness and the support offered for SEND (Special Educational Needs).*
- *I like how content my daughter is here. It makes me feel reassured as a parent that she feels safe and happy whilst in a school environment.*
- *Good communication from the school through emails, letters, MarvellousMe and Seesaw, especially as I don't do the drop off or collection; I feel I still know what is going on with my child in school.*
- *I like how the teachers take care of the children and encourage and support them in their learning. I love the smile on my daughter's face when I pick her up and tells me how much she enjoyed her day.*
- *Our little ones are happy. We like the fact that you have well-being days. Lunch menu seems nice and varied. Teachers are friendly.*

I am sure that you will join me in thanking all of the staff in the school for their dedication and hard work. I would like to thank all of the children, parents, governors and wider community for their continued support and working with the school during these challenging circumstances.

Julie Meijueiro - Chair of the Local Governing Body

An Exciting Curriculum

Knowledge organisers are now used across all curriculum areas and sent home in a home learning pack for Key Stage One. Similarly, Reception have developed their own home learning pack linking to their newly developed curriculum. We hope you find these useful to support your child at home.

As COVID restrictions have eased we have seen more trips, use of the local environment, had enrichment activities in school and begun swimming lessons again for Year 2. This has been welcomed by all and enhances our curriculum offer for all children.



Infant and Junior School Leadership

To further enhance the leadership structure of the two schools, eight staff have completed a year long course and successfully gained their National Professional Qualifications at different levels. This has enabled staff to have a greater understanding of school structure, understanding how to manage change, embedding visions and values and finance. Staff across the two schools have been able to collaborate together on their own learning to enhance communication between the two schools, developing consistency and clear working relationships. Subject leaders across both schools have worked closely together to ensure that the curriculum has continuity from Early Years to Year 6; this year this has included art, music, geography, maths and English.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a highlight of our school year. Whilst still enjoying our varied curriculum, children had a fun-filled week of celebratory events! Children practised and performed a dance and a song which we then watched back very proudly. We took part in dance workshops and had a picnic in the hall with an ice cream afterwards. Finally, on our last day of term, we were given the opportunity to watch films that were produced in the 1950s. After all this, we were definitely ready for half term! We took part in an art competition with one of our pieces being chosen as a winner. We collaborated with the rest of the Trust schools to produce a song performance and we were even lucky enough to have a helicopter land on our school field.

Safeguarding Board

A new Children's Safeguarding Board was established at the start of the summer term. The role of the safeguarding board is to: communicate with pupils, parents, staff and governors; supporting anti-bullying week and e-safety week, so that it is child led; carrying out safety audits with pupils, for example, where they do and don't feel safe within the school, how lunchtimes and break times can be improved; writing safety policies relating to pupils in a child friendly and accessible way. They have presented information to support with Safer School work, led assemblies and found out the views of pupils. We look forward to their work continuing over the next year. What amazing advocates for the school!

Our Strategic Plan and the Year Ahead

Over the next year the work will be around the following aspects of the strategic plan:

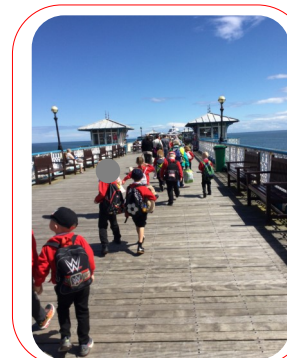
- Strengthen the broad curriculum ensuring that it gives children knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life
- Secure and maintain a trend of progress measures for EYFS, Phonics and KS1 so that they are above average
- Continue to consistently promotes the extensive personal development of pupils
- Develop 'leadership at all levels' through support and collaboration with other schools within the Trust

The Local Governing Body

The [Governors' page](#) on the school website tells you who we are, who appointed us and our attendance record. It also lists our relevant business or other interests. It is our job to make sure that everything is in place so that children can do their best learning. We agree our strategic direction, monitor and evaluate the school's work, acting as a critical friend to the Executive Headteacher and Head of School.



Jubilee Celebrations



The children out on a trip to the seaside.