

Witnesham Primary School
Report to the Parish Council APM
Wednesday 18th April 2018

I am pleased to write a report on the activities of the school over the last year.

As of today we have 104 pupils on our register – with a full reception class anticipated for the new academic year. We continue to accommodate 4 mixed aged classes with some additional teaching areas for smaller group support, but as always space is limited.

Our staffing has remained the same as the last academic year reflecting a good balance of younger members with more experienced teachers allowing new initiatives and experience to enhance the curriculum.

I mentioned in last year's report that it was possible that the old Equipment Maintenance Unit might be demolished so I am pleased to report that it will in fact be demolished this summer, along with our Classroom 5 and the football club changing rooms. This will allow a large portable classroom to be put on the footprint of the changing rooms and will give additional outdoor space for the Witnesham Pre-School.

This project will enhance our teaching and storage areas, give additional car parking for staff and enhance the outdoor provision for the Pre-school.

Work is due to start from the beginning of July and should be completed for the start of the new term in September.

Otley Primary Schools new hall is well underway with a completion date of August 31st – this development will also include a new Early Years Centre.

In September 2017 I gave Governors notice of my intention to retire at the end of the academic year; this allowed the long process of Headteacher recruitment to take place and for the successful applicant to give notice in their own school. I am pleased to tell you that Mr Richard Benstock was appointed in January and will be taking up the position of Federation Headteacher from 1st September 2018.

Other staffing changes have seen the retirement of Mrs Sue Leggett, Federation Bursar from 31st March and the employment of Mrs Julia Farmer as our new Bursar with effect from 1st April.

Mrs Barbara Booty, a long standing member of staff and current Deputy Headteacher will also retire at the end of the summer term – a new appointment has been made but this information will not be shared with parents until after half-term.

There will be a completely new Federation Senior Management Team from September as Mrs Cheryl Tomany, Deputy Headteacher at Otley is also retiring from senior management but will become the Federation Special Needs Coordinator. An exciting time for our schools!

Our 14 Y6 pupils will be moving to their new schools in July – as always we will be feeding into a number of High Schools which this year are Debenham, Farlingaye, Thomas Mills, Northgate, Holbrook High, and The Ipswich School: we have no pupils transferring to Claydon High School this year which is unusual but this reflects the power of parental choice and the wide catchment that Witnesham Primary School attracts.

All pupils will take advantage of the induction visits that the High Schools organise.

I have been immensely proud to lead Otley and Witnesham Federation for the last 11 years and take satisfaction in leaving both schools with a consistently ‘Good’ Ofsted rating under various Ofsted Frameworks. Both schools provide excellent learning opportunities for its pupils and are caring, safe and forward thinking.

It has been a pleasure to work with members of the Parish and Community Councils since my appointment as Headteacher in 2007, knowing that you will all give my successor the same support that you have given me.

With best wishes

Jan Hubbard-Whitehead
Headteacher