

Governor's Report

July 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As another academic year comes to a close, on behalf of the Governing Board I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school.

There have been many significant highlights this past 12 months, and it is good to reflect on these as a reminder of the fantastic work, effort and energy that goes into making our school such as rewarding place for pupils, parents, carers, teaching and support staff.

We welcomed His Majesty's Inspectors in June to conduct our first in school OFSTED Inspection for several years and we are all delighted to be awarded a 'Good' rating. Such inspections are challenging for all involved, including the pupils who are asked to be part of sessions, and it is a testimony to the resilience, determination and experience of Mrs Reeves and all the teaching staff that we have not just kept our good rating, but received great feedback from the OFSTED report that highlights areas of the school which are outstanding;



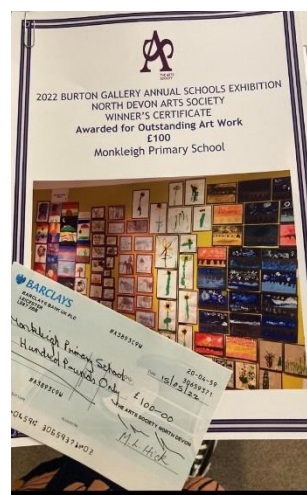
including the provision for pupils' personal development, outdoor learning and the wide range of clubs and trips from early years through to Year 6. One section from the report in particular caught our eye and am sure you all see and feel it as well: "...one member of staff shared, 'we are a family'. Staff feel well supported by leaders and governors who are mindful of their workload."

Looking back through some of the achievements this past year, it is clear to all how many of the new developments support this statement. The impact of our Forest School since autumn 2022 has been nothing but spectacular, and much of the credit goes to Mrs Hobbs and all the children who have helped turn what was a fairly unremarkable patch of unused land into a blossoming area for learning, growing, recycling and building. It has been important to see how the produce grown in the Forest School is now making it onto the school dinner menu.



Back in January, a school wide project was started to understand what attending the school means to the children – via a series of core words that they felt represented what we are all about. With input from everyone across all years, we have created our 'This is Monkleigh' posters which are displayed throughout the school. This list of the 7 core words are: I am **Ambitious**, I am **Resilient**, I am **Curious**, I am **Kind**, I have **Empathy**, I **Shine**, I can **Communicate**.

Alongside this, we were proud to receive a certificate of recognition for the music that is taught in the school, an award and donation for outstanding art from the Burton Gallery including having the children's work exhibited, along with several successful school trips.
– see pictures below and gallery at the end of this report.



In the past year, the Board has welcomed three new Governors – Lynn Bennett, Jane Clarke and Jamie Hobbs – who are already starting to play an important role in the work that the Board does – more on that below. We were also saddened to hear the passing earlier this year of David Butler. David had been ill for a while but throughout his time as a Governor had made a significant contribution to how the school was run and the policies we followed – David's impact and memory will live on with the school for many years to come.

As a reminder, the role of the Governing Board is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our school. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, but to support, encourage and challenge the school in all it does, so that every child in our care receives the best possible education. Our role is a strategic one, and we meet usually every month to discuss and agree the key ambitions for the school, review the educational performance of pupils, plus ensure the money we have available is well spent.

Looking ahead to the autumn term, our priorities will include:

- Ensuring the learnings from the OFSTED Inspection are being implemented in the school to everyone's benefit
- Increasing the amount of community engagement we conduct with parents, carers, local groups and organisations
- Welcoming new teacher, Mr Stevens, for Class 3 and also new TA ,Mrs Gomm, for 1:1
- Continuing the expansion of Forest School as it impacts more areas of the curriculum and school life, in particular how it helps support our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Exploring installing a new running track around the playing field
- Looking at further ways to become Plastic Free and reduce our environmental footprint
- Recruiting more Parent Governors to help oversee and guide the workings of the school

May we take this opportunity to wish all the staff, pupils, parents and carers a fantastic Summer break and look forward to seeing you again in September, fully refreshed, recharged and excited for the school term ahead.

Many thanks and have a great Summer

Austen Donnellan

Austen Donnellan
Chair – Monkleigh Primary School

