

Farthinghoe Primary School
Head Teacher Report for the Parish Council
April 2022

*Farthinghoe School where all children are valued and given the opportunity to shine
Be kind, Be resilient, Be brave, Be you!*

Farthinghoe School has gone through a few changes since your last meeting.

Wendy Whitehouse moved on in January 2022 and is now the Headteacher at the Hornton Primary School near Banbury; she had ably lead the school for many years, but was ready for her next challenge. Families and staff, at a Christmas Celebration in the Church, celebrated Wendy's time at Farthinghoe at the end of the autumn term.

I was fortunate enough to have worked with Wendy as her Deputy since 2016 and when she announced her promotion within our Academy, I was invited to 'step up' as the Head of School in Wendy's place. I continue in my role as Lead teacher for EYFS and Key Stage 1 but also have time out of class, weekly, to lead and support the staff and children at our wonderful school.

In the same way as I continue to teach, Wendy also taught in Years 3 and 4, so I was delighted to welcome Mrs Alex Fisher to our school in January 2022. Alex teaches in Years 3 and 4 in the mornings and Mr Steve Elson continues to teach across Key Stage 2 in the mornings and afternoons. I am lucky to have such a strong and committed team of both teachers, teaching assistants and office staff.

We are currently awaiting an OFSTED visit and so much of our focus of attention is on making sure we do as well as we can when this happens. We currently have an 'Outstanding' judgement but this was awarded in 2015 and the criteria for this grading has changed greatly since then. We await our visit with excitement and interest.

As many of you know, we are part of The Warriner Academy Trust, which we joined in 2018. During 2020, leaders from the Academy looked at how we could enhance our academic offer and improve on our curriculum. Since September 2021, all MAT schools started using the same curriculum which has been designed to offer diversity, equality and challenge for all our children. This is very much a work in progress, with regular meetings being held between subject leaders and staff to ascertain relevancy and appropriateness of subject content and information. We are very much enjoying the variance of ideas and subjects this new curriculum is offering us.

In January 2022, the staff and children were asked to consider what they felt our values should be and their relevance to our school. The words put forward were then used to create our new School Values and have since informed our Behaviour Policy, Vision and Ethos. The children know and understand the values, and in April, were part of a parent presentation in which they spoke, drew and presented our values and explained why these values had been chosen and what they meant to them and the other children across the school. To find out more, please look at our school website, where we have created a page of the children's ideas around these values.

The school has always been proactive when it comes to fundraising but in March 2022, the children, staff and parents excelled themselves by coming together with the village to support the Ukrainian people and raise money for the Red Cross to support refugees with food, clothes, water and medicines. The Year 6 at the school, led by a young woman from Farthinghoe, Daisy Booker, set up a number of fundraising events and a Wheelathon, which were well received by all. Emails were sent out to village members and parents and many

came into the school over the course of the day to celebrate and donate to such a worthwhile cause. As I write, the money is still being counted but as at today (23rd March 2022) we have raised in excess of £1,000, which is amazing and a fantastic achievement. I am so proud of the Year 6 pupils and the whole school for putting so much time and energy into such an important cause and showing how empathetic they can be. A true showing of our values and how we, as a school community, live by them every day.

In a week's time, we will be breaking up for Easter. We will be celebrating with an Easter Bonnet parade, Easter egg hunt, a cake sale and uniform swap. All planned for and led by our lovely School Ties Committee.

We are also presently looking at how we will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee and investigating ways in which we can be involved with the village and our local community.

I love being the Head of School at Farthinghoe Primary School and I look forward to finding ways for us to become more involved with the village and our local community. Farthinghoe Primary School is lucky to be part of such a supportive village.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Turner
Head of School