

**Farthinghoe Primary School**  
**Head Teacher Report for the Parish Council**  
**April 2023**

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

It has been an incredibly busy year at Farthinghoe Primary School and it has been wonderful to enjoy a full academic year with no COVID restrictions or limitations.

Following our previous report in April 2022, we enjoyed a busy summer term, our younger children (Reception, year 1 and year 2) visited Evenley Wood Garden on a monthly basis to enjoy Forest School sessions, led by a local business, Muddy Feet. We have continued this valuable learning this year, and the children are due to attend their second Forest session in May.

We marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a fantastic Commonwealth Café. Each child was given one of the 56 countries and asked to create a typical/national dish. Our families and parents were invited into school to try the many delicacies – there was quite an array of flavours.

Last year we introduced a new leadership initiative 'Headteacher for the Day'. Open to our year 6 pupils, a whole school assembly was held and the candidates read their manifestoes and urged the other children to vote for them. The winning student was Elizabeth and on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July she had the responsibility of being our Headteacher. Elizabeth observed a year 3 and 4 Maths lesson, allowed the key stage 2 children to play with the huge parachute on the field at lunch time and even ordered some fun play equipment for the playground. This initiative will continue in coming years and our current year 6 children are already canvassing their peers!

Our summer term was rounded off with Sports' Day, year 6 cycling proficiency and our leavers' service for year 6 at Farthinghoe Church.

September saw a change to my teaching arrangements. I am now in class 2.5 days per week and share my teaching responsibilities with my colleague, Mrs Pegg. The children are comfortable with the set up and are always aware of who will be in class each day. We continue to be supported by 2 Teaching Assistants in our EYFS, year 1 and year 2 class.

Brackley Food Bank visited in September and spoke to the children about the importance of what they do. We then collected for this worthy cause as part of our Harvest Festival. We held a parent assembly and each class made a hearty soup for everyone to sample.

Our year 3 and 4 children enjoyed a day trip to Edgehill Battlefield in October, which tied in with their History learning. The class visited Saint Peter's Church and explored the Battle of Edgehill Radley Exhibition.

We held an open morning in November for prospective Reception (Sept 2023) parents and their children. The event was well attended and we are hoping to meet our admission number of 6 in September.

The children continue to be keen to raise awareness and money for worthy causes, so far this year we have held a cake sale for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), mufti days for Children in Need and Red Nose Day, Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children and a Santa Fun Run for Helen & Douglas House.

Our School Ties committee (PTA) have organised regular funding raising events this year. Our School Fair in the summer was held at the Village Hall and it was wonderful to see so many people from the village supporting us. Our Christmas Fair was held in school and included lots of craft activities for the children. We recently took part in a sponsored 'Boots & Bonnets' Easter event, organised by the committee. The children enjoyed a lengthy walk around the village followed by a scavenger hunt in the park. Each child was rewarded with a chocolate egg and the funds raised are set to be used to update and improve our outside area and storage.

In January our year 3 and 4 children embarked on a residential trip to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre. Accompanied by their class teacher, Mrs Fisher and teaching assistant, Mrs Lear, the children enjoyed 3 days and 2 nights of shelter building, fire lighting and team building games.



We have just secured a further trip for our year 5 and 6 children to Longtown Outdoor Centre in January 2024.

Our pupil numbers remain steady and we have welcomed a number of new pupils in various year groups, since September. We had 3 new starters who do not speak English and the staff in school have been working incredibly hard to support these children. Their progress has been fantastic to see and I am pleased to report that they have come on so much since they joined us before Christmas.

As a school we had not previously split the children into houses/colours/teams. As staff we discussed the option of introducing a reward system. We decided that a great way to motivate the children and encourage excellent learning behaviours would be to introduce the House

Point system. Every child, from Reception to Year 6, was allocated into one of our four houses, along with a teacher and teaching assistant.

The colours were pre-determined – red, yellow, green and blue, however, we asked the children to name the houses after inspirational people. A mini competition was held and the names were decided – Rowling, Attenborough, Mercury and Hamilton. We could not think of more apt names. The scheme has created a wonderful buzz around school and not only has it made the children keen to earn house points, but also encourages them to support their fellow house members too.

As you may have seen in passing, the School has also undergone a number of maintenance projects in the past year. We successfully received DfE funding to have the roof replaced. The impact and disruption to the staff and children was kept to a minimal and the majority of the works were completed during the summer holidays. Bird and bat boxes were re-installed as part of the works and we are pleased to confirm that we have had many sightings of the birds coming home to roost.

We updated our perimeter fencing during the Christmas holidays. The new fencing provides greater safety for the children whilst also opening up the school and making us more visible to passers-by. We have also received confirmed funding for our windows to be replaced, however this work will need to be completed during the holidays and we are awaiting further information from the Academy.

We are intending to hold a tea party for the upcoming King's Coronation and we will continue to investigate ways in which we can be involved with the village and our local community.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or suggestions for us as a school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Turner  
Head of School