

Headteachers Report Residents Meeting



Spring 2024

Thank you very much, as always, for the opportunity to report to the Parish Council; one of our core values is **Community** and it is something we hold in the highest regard. We are exceptionally fortunate to be part of such a beautiful rural parish.

Aspiration

Dignity

Kindness

Community

West Felton CofE Primary School 2023/24

School Road, West Felton, 01691 610388, head.westfelton@westcliffe.shropshire.sch.uk

Our school day runs from 8:55am – 3:30pm and we offer Breakfast and After Club from 7:55am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday. We have recently been able to offer this facility to our Nursery children twice a week.

We employ 30 members of staff, both part and full time and currently have 155 children on roll.

Catkins	Acorn	Oak	Beech	Willow	Sycamore
Nursery	Reception	Y1 & Y2	Y2 & Y3	Y4 & Y5	Y5 & Y6
22	18	28	30	30	27

Top 5 wins this year...

1. Our broad and balanced curriculum offer

Our Vision is 'Preparing for life in all its fullness' and we wholeheartedly believe in providing our children with a broad and balanced curriculum which inspires a love of learning now and in the future, enabling children to reach their full potential. As a team, we have worked exceptionally hard on our curriculum offer, further details can be seen here:

[West Felton CofE Primary School Curriculum Overview](#)

An ambitious planned curriculum ensures that pupils have access to a full range of subjects. The curriculum sets out clearly what they want pupils to learn and how they will check if this has been achieved. They have advanced this work well in many subjects, including in English and mathematics, but also in others, including religious education and PSHE.

Ofsted, July 2022

98% of pupils would recommend West Felton CofE Primary School to a friend and 100% enjoy learning.

KS1 and KS2 Pupil Survey, November 2023

100% of parents feel that we teach a good range of subjects and 98% would recommend West Felton CofE Primary School to other parents.

Parent Survey, November 2023

2. We beat the summer slide

In England & Wales, pupils are out of school for 6 long weeks over the summer holidays. Without regular practise and consolidation, children often lose their fluency in reading and we have a lot of ground to make up each September. We devised an initiative which encouraged the children to continue reading regularly over the summer holidays. We hosted 3 picnics at school every two weeks and pupils who had read regular were invited to attend and were awarded with a book at each picnic. Local businesses and organisations, including the Parish Council, Suckley's, Aico, Gentech, St. Michael's Church, Forge, NFU Mutual and Garner Pugh & Sinclair sponsored the events which meant that they were free for pupils and families and there was no additional cost to the school. The picnics were exceptionally well attended. In addition to the reading attainment being maintained or extended, families commented on the social aspects of the events and how they helped maintain contact with friends and ease anxieties coming back after such a long break.



3. Faith Tour to Derby

Living in rural Shropshire, our children's experiences of other faiths can be limited. Evidence suggests that first hand experiences lead to better understanding and consequently, greater tolerance and respect for other religions and world faiths. On February 29th, we travelled to Derby with our Y5 and Y6 children and visited a Hindu temple, a mosque and a gurdwara. It was an absolutely fascinating day and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. St. Michael's church very kindly funded this event and we will be hosting an exhibition at the church in the coming months for the whole community, details will be circulated, and we'd love you to join us.



4. Our new facilities

Over the last 12 months, the school has undergone significant redevelopment, including the new multi-purpose hall, known as The Glade, a suite of offices, a new entrance, trim trail, and line markings to both the front and back playgrounds (part-funded by a Parish Council grant.) The impact of these changes is vast and far-reaching:

- The children can all eat together in the hall rather than in their classrooms.
- PE is no longer impacted by the weather.
- Our Worship environment is calm, spacious, and inviting.
- Performances can be enjoyed by all, rather than being limited to just 2 visitors.
- Our various intervention strategies such as Cool Kids can take place consistently and there is no lost learning time in finding a space and setting up resources.
- Our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Advisor) has a nurturing, quiet space for one to one and small groups sessions. Parents and families can meet without interruptions.
- The headteachers workspace has improved significantly, increasing productivity and wellbeing.
- Our entrance exceeds Shropshire Safer Schools standards and is accessible to all.
- The playground facilities are more varied, encouraging group activities and enhancing social interactions between pupils.
- The trim trail is an additional outdoor space where the children can build their strength and develop their gross motor skills.



5. Picture Building process

Teachers play a pivotal role in society and quite rightly must be held to account. However, research suggests that the current method of sporadic observations does not improve teaching or learning outcomes for children. (Stecher *et al* 2018). Therefore, we have developed a new strategy known as Picture Building.

The principles are:

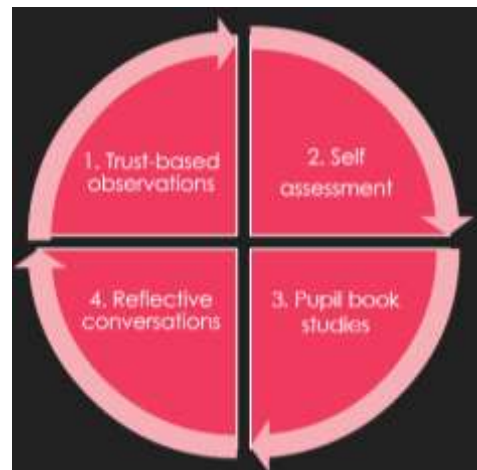
- To gain a clear and accurate picture of the learning experience for our children.
- To identify evidence of excellence; refine it, practise it and share it.
- To identify areas which could be stronger; research, trial, embed.
- To continually improve teaching as well as learning outcomes.

It consists of four elements, which, when combined provide a detailed insight into the learning experiences for our children. From this, we can address any areas for development, replicate areas of excellence and extend training and professional development opportunities.

Its impact was summed up recently by our School Improvement Partner:

"Leaders have had particularly effective impact through the use of the Picture Building process as a method for school improvement.

Staff appreciate this evidence-based approach, acting upon findings more quickly and effectively." J. Hall, February 2024



So, we have shared just some of our highlights this year, as we continue to strive for excellence and provide the best education for the children of West Felton now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hughes

