

Head Teachers Report

West Felton Parish Council



Spring 2022
Helen Hughes

Thank you very much for the opportunity to report to the Parish Council; we have really missed the face-to-face interaction during the pandemic and are so pleased that it can now resume. Please find a brief summary of life at West Felton CofE Primary School, which I am happy to expand on during the meeting, or via email: head.westfelton@westcliffe.shropshire.sch.uk

Mrs. Helen Hughes
Headteacher

Number on roll

Class	Number on role
Acorn	38 (25 Nursery, 13 Reception)
Oak	25
Beech	29
Willow	30
Sycamore	29
Pupil Total	151 (including Nursery) 126 (excluding Nursery)
Staff Total	30

Our Priorities

Each year, we prioritise 3 to 4 areas to develop. This year we chose:

1. *To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our phonics programme throughout the school*
Since the pandemic, quite rightly, the effective teaching of reading has been high on the agenda for all schools. Our assistant head, Sue Miller, has developed a phonics scheme which is effective and engaging and develops a love of reading as well as an understanding of the mechanics. All of our Y2 pupils passed their phonic screening assessment – superseding the government expectations of 80%.
2. *Review the contents of Foundation subjects, specifically RE, Music and PSHE*
We have always aimed to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all of our pupils, which ensures that time is dedicated to the ‘foundation subjects’ as well as the core subjects (English, Maths and Science). This year we have prioritised time and resources into RE, Music and PSHE, developing faith, creativity, resilience and empathy.



3. *To raise the standards in Maths across the school*
The acquisition of Early mathematical concepts took a hit during the pandemic and we have invested some of our Covid Recovery funding into high-quality intervention for our Y1, Y4 and Y5 pupils – bridging gaps, revisiting concepts and building confidence.

Our Curriculum

Our Curriculum is a keystone at West Felton and something which we are very proud of. Ofsted (2017) said: **“Pupils are enthused by the varied and stimulating curriculum, you and the staff provide,”** and we believe it has gone from strength to strength since then.

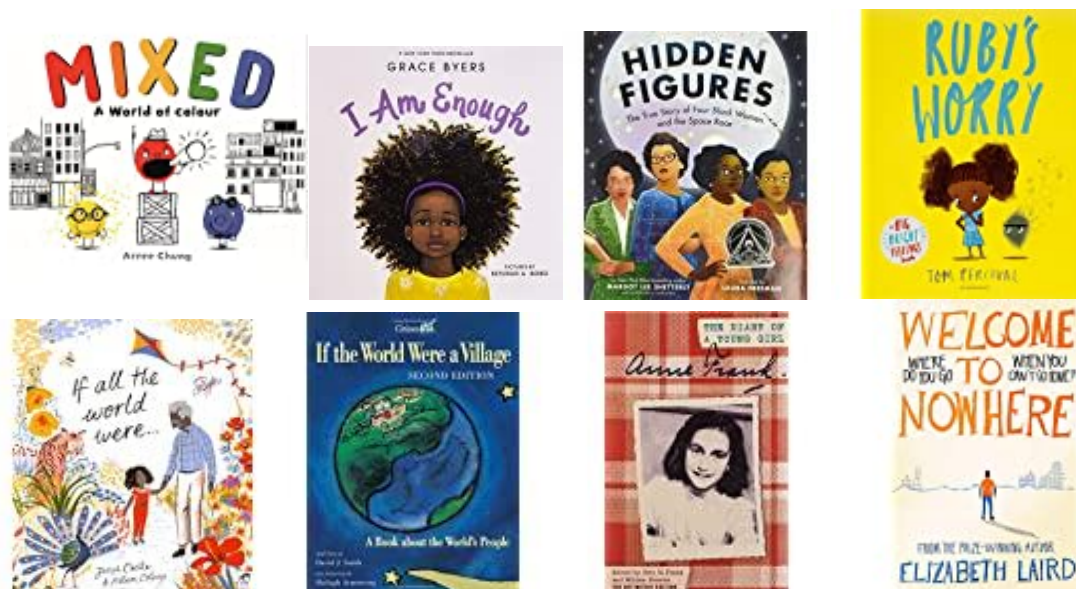
Please find further details in this short video:

<https://westfelton.westcliffefederation.co.uk/curriculum-overview/>

Diversity

We continue to drive for a curriculum which is diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, social background, ability/disability, race, religion or belief, or age.

We recently created an Amazon Wishlist and the books on it were predominately those recommended to promote diversity. Our parents were exceptionally generous and we have benefitted hugely from this. Each class now has a selection of high-quality diverse story books and non-fiction texts.



Challenges

1. Staffing issues due to Covid-19

Along with everyone else, we have had staff absences to deal with this academic year. The team have responded brilliantly to these challenges – taking on extra duties, covering where they wouldn't usually, checking in on each other and making drinks for those who haven't had breaks. Those at home have made excellent use of their isolation (providing that they are not ill) and they have been able to complete the online training packages. The attitude and willingness to help out has been phenomenal.

2. Space

For several years, we have struggled with space at West Felton and now have 151 children and 30 members of staff on site. Our Governors have worked tirelessly to secure support and funding for a school hall and the project continues. We had a very positive meeting mid-march and hope that the new hall will be completed by September 2023.

Top ten successes

1. Key worker & vulnerable child provision which we were able to offer to all four federated schools through lock-down.
2. Home school learning using our online platform – Seesaw.
3. A successful return to full opening following lock-down.
4. The expansion of the staff team with several home-grown recruits.
5. The engagement in the local book award – Bookfest.
6. Attendance of Arthog Outdoor Activity centre.
7. Participation in a pilot scheme offered by Shropshire Mental Health Support team to reach children and families before crisis point.
8. Worship leaders programme which supports and encourages the older children to plan, organise and deliver whole school assemblies.
9. Excellent partnership with Booka Bookshop providing opportunities to read for pleasure.
10. Re-engagement with sporting opportunities.