

John Blandy Report to the Parish Council AGM – May 2023

Admissions

School has seen a rise in pupils this year and we now have 257 pupils in the school.

There are still places within certain year groups and we are looking to expand by a class in September 2023 and a further class by September 2025, taking us to our capacity of 11 classes.

We were oversubscribed this year for Reception places and are expecting 45 children starting with us in September.

Funding & Support

This year we have received funding from Faringdon Rotary Club of £3000 to refurbish and resource our nurture area, the Meadow. This is due to be finished before the summer term. The old staffroom will become an area that is a calm learning environment that all children will be able to access if and when they need it.

We have launched our Community Café this year- an opportunity for parents and Carers to become increasingly involved in the children's learning. This has been extremely well attended across all year groups. This initiative will continue into the next academic year. We have also just secured £500 through the Mid Counties Co-op Community Grant scheme to help resource the café further.

Maintenance of the school

This year we have had all of our pipework replaced in the original building, bringing it inline with up-to-date pipework.

Curriculum

Curriculum enrichment has been a focus this year, with trips and residentials back in full swing. I would like to personally thank the Blandy Trust for their generous donation this year. In a time when cost of living has impacted so many of our families, this donation has helped to enable many of our children to attend the experiences on offer to them. This year we have had trips to: Warwick Castle, Hill End, Kilvrough Residential in Wales, Year 5 residential to Wootton Bassett, Great Fire of London experience day to name but a few, with more trips planned for the summer term.

At the start of January, we held a curriculum enrichment week for the first 3 days back. The children carouselled around the classrooms to be taught by the subject leader. The children all took part in many fun and exciting lessons on offer.

Our school Community

This year, we also launched our Community Food bank where our families were able to discreetly access the food bank outside the school office, which contained items such as tinned and long-life foods. This year, we also created Christmas hampers for some of our families, which parents, carers and the local community donated towards. The hampers were personally delivered and gratefully accepted.

PTA

Our Friends of John Blandy have been very active this year. They have put on many fantastic events for the children including:

Summer social

Bonfire & Fireworks,

School Disco,

Easter Trails

Easter egg raffles.

They have raised a huge amount of money which will be used to purchase new Smartboards for the original building to aid teaching and learning.

Road Traffic Safety

This year, I have also received much communication from concerned parents/carers and guardians regarding the parking around school and on Faringdon Road. I met with someone from OCC highways who has recommended that the school has school markings on the road outside the main entrance along with signage along Laurel Drive.

He has also made recommendations regarding line markings, which he has shared with the Parish Council, but will come at a cost to the Parish Council. I hope that this is something that the Parish Council share my view on that should be prioritized and actioned due to the increase in traffic and likelihood of an accident or fatality.