

Parish report

St John the Baptist CE Primary School, Ruyton XI Towns

We are delighted to have finished the key stage two SATS for another year. Our pupils continue to excel and show sheer determination and effort throughout these tests. We are very proud of them all.

Our thanks to the parish council for their support in funding towards our shelter in the nursery area and, previously, with the trim trail. Both have been invaluable. We are pleased to report our pupil numbers continue to increase. We have welcomed new pupils from both the local area and abroad over the past year.

Our nursery continues to benefit from growing numbers as we are admitting a number of children as they turn two years old now. This, in turn, feeds larger numbers into the reception class.

We continue to maintain four classes plus the nursery with class sizes all being less than 30 into next year, allowing us to add in new pupils should they need arise through the year.

We will be sending out Year four children on their residential to Liverpool after half term and the Year six children to Arthog. Both of these residential visits provide excellent learning and social opportunities for our pupils.

We are always delighted to hear from past pupils who return with news of excelling in the navy, in sport and in music as well as other areas too numerous to mention.

In other news,

Recognised for achieving high standards in our schools, the governing body of our federation have recently been approached by Bicton CE Primary School's Governing Body with a request to provide Executive Leadership to their school from September 2024 when their current headteacher leaves her post. Having carefully considered this request, our governing body have confirmed that they will enter into a service level agreement to share our executive leadership. We are delighted to be able to agree to support this over the coming year, building on the strengths of our present federation team.

Whilst Bicton School is not formally joining our federation, and will retain its own governing body, we believe that more formal collaborative working will benefit children and staff across all schools. Our Federation is committed to 'school-led' school improvement and, particularly as a Church of England School Federation, we recognise our responsibilities to all children not just those who attend our current schools. We are welcoming of all forms of school-to-school collaboration as a vehicle for upskilling and developing staff, developing curriculum provision, promoting wider pupil engagement and engaging with our wider community in order to improve outcomes for

all children. We have realised these benefits within our own federation over recent years. Through this arrangement with Bicton governors, Mrs Ball will also have Executive Headship responsibility to Bicton CE Primary School and the talented staff team within our federation will also contribute to the continued development of Bicton School through extending our existing professional development opportunities to Bicton staff.

In order to facilitate the fact that Mrs Julie Ball, our experienced Executive Headteacher, will be taking on this strategic role over the three schools, we will be putting in a slightly different leadership model from September across our schools.

We are delighted to be promoting the following staff to new roles within the federation;

Mrs Sallie Roberts will become Acting Head of School at Bomere

Mrs Katie Farmer and Mrs Kate Gregory will share becoming Acting Head of School at Ruyton

As Acting Head of School in their respective schools, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Farmer and Mrs Gregory will be responsible for the effective day-to-day running of their school, much like a traditional headteacher. The Head of School works under the strategic leadership of the Executive Headteacher. The Head of School will be the main point of contact from the leadership team, for staff and parents and will be based full time at their school.

Mrs Ball will be working across all three schools (Bomere Heath, Ruyton and Bicton) but will no longer be the main point of contact for parents and staff.

Our governors continue to work hard in supporting and challenging the leaders in the school with external validation of their work rating them highly.

Our friends group had been exceptional in its work over the past few years. We have been very excited with their recent purchase of a history timeline and world map for the shared areas. Our visitors love them too. I know they would love to see you all at their annual fun fest on 16th July.

We will be finishing off our half term with our sponsored fun run on Friday organised by the friends too.

Fingers crossed the weather holds out until then!

Julie Ball