



Marhamchurch C of E School

Marhamchurch, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 0HY

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## Marhamchurch CofE Primary School's report for the Annual Marhamchurch Parish Council Meeting 2021

After working closely with the Celtic Cross Education Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in 2016/17 Marhamchurch school formally joined Celtic Cross Education on Monday 1st January 2018. Celtic Cross Education is a MAT of currently twelve primary schools across Cornwall, including a number of other small village schools. All of the schools in the MAT are currently church schools and Celtic Cross Education is committed to encouraging all schools in the MAT to maintain and develop their own identity and vision.

Mr D. Hoare initially started as Acting Headteacher in June 2017 and it was a real pleasure and privilege for him to have been appointed Head of School at Marhamchurch CofE Primary School after successfully joining Celtic Cross Education on Monday 1st January 2018. Mr D. Hoare remains Head of school, which continues to provide stable leadership and continuity for the school, working in partnership with the Chair of our School Monitoring Councillors (SMC). Mr D. Hoare would like to thank everyone for continuing to make him feel so welcome – especially the SMC, parents and staff for their continued support as well as their hard work. He continues to be particularly impressed by the children, who are well-behaved and are, quite simply, a pleasure to teach! He is extremely proud of the resilience that the staff, parents and pupils have shown, adapting so well to the many changes needed in school since the first Coronavirus national lockdown in March 2020. More than ever, our whole school community have lived and breathed our school's Christian vision: Together, we can achieve and succeed with God by our side. What a team effort!

Since converting to an Academy, the Chair of our SMC, continues to be Faye Emery. Mr D. Hoare would like to thank our SMC for their invaluable and generous commitment to the school! The Head of School and our School Monitoring Councillors continue to be predominantly responsible for leading teaching and learning across the school because the premises, human resources and finance committees are managed centrally by Celtic Cross Education.

Ever since Mr D. Hoare was appointed Acting Headteacher in June 2017, the school have well and truly begun a journey of improvement. Our focus this academic year has been on recovery to settle the children (and our staff) back into the new normal in school and their class bubbles after the national COVID-19 Summer 2020 and Spring 2021 school closures, where we:

- Worked continuously to provide provision for our critical worker and vulnerable pupils, basing ourselves at Bude Primary Academy initially, then returning to Marhamchurch School from June 2020 onwards;
- Developed contingency plans for immediate remote education;

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- Developed systems for vulnerable parent and pupil welfare check ins;
- Further developed our whole school approach to supporting children's emotional wellbeing and mental health, working in partnership with our parents and outside agencies where needed;
- Endeavoured to reverse any adverse effects on our pupil's academic attainment caused by COVID-19 to catch up on missed key learning;
- Set remote gardening and PE challenges;
- Continued to run our pupil School Council remotely;
- Set up remote cooking and art clubs;
- Took part in the virtual Cornwall School Games;
- Took part in the Cornwall Music Education Hub Songfest 2021 remotely;
- Purchased more iPads and Chromebooks;
- Created regular keeping in touch videos;
- Provided Free School Meals hampers and vouchers;
- Etc.

With so many successes over the past few years, we have continued our journey of improvement to the best of our abilities whilst adhering to the evolving government Coronavirus guidance in an effort to keep our whole school community as safe and healthy as possible. For example, we have focused on:

- Further developing the governance, leadership and curriculum of the school;
- Ensuring that the curriculum is rich and broad so that it provides real and purposeful learning opportunities that inspire and motivate the pupils;
- Strengthening assessments so that they accurately identify the children's next steps in learning and provide the children with useful feedback to maximise their progress;
- Ensuring that Teacher's planning provides appropriate challenge for all our children;
- Developing consistent and effective routines and procedures across the school;
- Maintaining high Teacher expectations with consistently high aspirations of all our children by continually aiming to improve the quality of teaching and children's learning evidenced in their books and on displays);
- Setting alongside the children and their parents/carers (as well as where required other agencies/professionals) half-termly SEND provision map targets to effectively cater for the needs of children with special educational needs;
- Building children's learning power and a growth mindset so that they see making mistakes as learning opportunities through pupil learning reflections and exploration of strategies to get unstuck independently;
- And continuing to review school budgets and expenditure, including staffing so that it is effective in maximising the impacts made and in ensuring high standards.

Alongside all these school improvements, our active pupil School Council continue to make us all proud, working towards a third consecutive platinum learning partnership Cornwall Council award, which will be the fourth time of achieving it. Due to their ongoing hard work, we are the only Cornish School who have maintained the platinum standard for so long so we support Cornwall Council by sharing our good practice across our county. We are particularly proud to be

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a plastic free school and a healthy school, having been awarded the Healthy Schools Cornwall Council Award 2020-2022. Therefore, Mr D. Hoare would like to thank these children as well as Mrs S. Short for leading our School Council so well.

Despite the international pandemic, we have been fortunate enough to continue to strengthen our community links as follows:

- Taking care of the planters around our Marhamchurch village war memorial;
- Decorating our Marhamchurch village shop with VE Day 2020 art work;
- Taking part in the Remembrance Day Service and 2 minutes silence with a school Poppy wreath and decorating our Marhamchurch village shop with our Poppy art work;
- Turning on the Marhamchurch Christmas tree lights;
- Regularly inspecting and reporting on the condition of our village Revel field and play park.
- Supporting national charitable work like MacMillan, Children in Need and Red Nose Day;
- And our 2 minute beach clean local charitable work too.

In addition, we are very proud of some of some of our individual achievements such as:

- Mr D Hoare having attained the required national professional standards for headteachers, being awarded the National Professional Qualification for Headship in February 2020 and the Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship in February 2021;
- Various pupil fundraising projects;
- A pupil winning the Diocese of Truro Christmas card competition;
- And our many staff and parents, who are new and expectant mothers.

To sum up, although it has been an unprecedented and challenging past year, we continue to have many thoroughly enjoyable and fantastic memories. The future is most definitely bright and we thank everyone involved with the school, who have been a part of our team, helping us achieve and succeed with God by our side.

We hope that you enjoyed reading our Marhamchurch Parish Council report. For more information about our school, please visit our Marhamchurch School website (<https://www.marhamchurch.cornwall.sch.uk/>) and Marhamchurch School Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Education/Marhamchurch-Primary-School-161580867811376/>).

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