

Up date from Hermitage Primary School

My name is Roger Axten I am a Governor at Hermitage Primary School, I am here to represent the Head Teacher, Mrs Gill Turner.

This past academic year has been a very busy one!

The whole school is now thankfully complete, with all the children and the majority of the staff returned to their respective classrooms and that remote learning (working from home), is no longer needed. The school actually experienced a huge wave of covid cases at the beginning of this year, thankfully we were able to provide learning for all our children due to the flexibility of our staff.

As a school, we have been keen to focus on providing as many exciting experiences for all the pupils to enjoy and therefore continue to build on developing their educational curriculum and close the gap created in lost learning periods of lockdown.

As the school returns to normality, different year classes, have been out and about on many adventures and fun-times even the Pantomime at the Corn exchange and visiting Hampton Court, Marwell Zoo, historical sites in Newbury plus the museum, and the Milestone Museum in Basingstoke. Also being part of the Down's Federation, year 6 pupils went away on a weeks' residential trip to Lake Bala, part of the Snowdonian National Park in North Wales. This trip was organised by Hermitage School that included children from six other local small schools, thus making up the numbers and giving all the children the opportunity to make new friends and experience adventurous activities in severe arduous conditions. It was a really fabulous experience for all involved. In early May this year, the current year 5 children will attend a two night residential trip to Lulworth Cove.

Sports remains a huge part of what we do and trying to keep our children active and fit, is a high priority, particularly in the stressful times we have found ourselves in. Local schools have just returned to competitive sports and recently HPS won the Newbury District Netball Competition.

Outdoor learning continues to play a strong element in our curriculum and we have continued to promote Forest School for all the children. Most staff have undertaken training to develop their knowledge and pass this on to their respective classes. All the staff training has been in-house as Mrs Jaqui Masoero is a Forest School accredited teacher. This week sees the start of our Round House project which will enhance the bush craft area, which is situated in the school grounds. The Round House is being built by a craftsman in the traditional iron age method, this is a very exciting project.

During the year a team of engineers have replaced our very old inefficient boilers with new air source pumps. Also solar panels have been fitted on the hall roof and LED lighting. This should cut energy costs. We have formed an eco council who are keen to support the school community in recycling and saving energy. The school's aim is to be awarded the green flag eco award.

The Parent Teachers Association (PTA) have continued to be a huge asset to our school working to provide fun family events like the November 5th Fire Works display. The money that has been raised supports the development of the grounds, and this year, we have installed a fitness trail for all children to access and add to the existing play equipment, which was paid for by the PTA.

On July 3rd we will be hosting Happy's Circus on our school grounds, an event for the whole village to join in.

We have plans this term, for a sports week and a celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

R.Axten

Hermitage School Governor.

April 2022