



## Hertford St Andrew C of E Primary School

*Love Learning. Aim High. Trust God.*

Since I wrote a report in April 2023, our school has seen a number of changes. At the end of the Summer Term we said goodbye to Mr Jones (Headteacher) and Ms Perry (Deputy Headteacher). The governors are delighted to have appointed and welcomed Ms Sutherland Cooper as our new Headteacher, who started the position at the beginning of the new academic year, and Mrs Sampson as Acting Deputy Headteacher.

Our school continues to offer the children a full and enriching curriculum within a clearly Christian ethos, its leaders and staff providing a caring and nurturing environment where the children grow in confidence and are keen to learn. Our vision – “Love Learning, Aim High, Trust God” and our values of Love, Trust, Forgiveness, Courage, and Resilience are at the core of everything the school does. Loving and valuing everyone is an essential element of Christian behaviour and is at the heart of life at the school and allows our children to respond to the school’s adopted Bible verse “let your light shine” (Mathew 5:16). Every week each class nominates their shining lights, and these children are invited to the front of the Hall in Collective Worship. The week before the end of term an extraordinary 91 children were nominated. Visit our excellent website to read more about these in the school’s Newsletter: [www.hertfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk)

There are currently 141 children on roll including 15 nursery children. The school has been fully staffed throughout the academic year.

St Andrew’s continues to have a high proportion of the children on the SEND register (28%) with eleven children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP), eligible for Free School Meals (52%) and receiving Pupil Premium funding (52%), all of which is above the National Average. The Department for Education requires the Pupil Premium money to be spent on promoting the progress of disadvantaged children and a full analysis of how the money is spent can be found on our website. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

Overall, the school is balancing its budget, but governors are very aware of the increasing costs (notably rising employment costs) that face all schools in both the primary and secondary sectors. Governors need to review all expenditures with great rigour when the budget for 2024/25 is set. The number of children in school, is still low and this affects the budget as the amount the school receives depends on numbers on roll. We hope that with the new housing development on Sele Farm, the successive Ofsted reports that have judged St Andrew’s as a “Good School” and the

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds." Matthew 5:16*

nurturing ethos of the school, more families will choose to send their children to the school

Once again, the church was very pleased to welcome members of the PTA and some children to sell cakes they have baked and to raise funds for the school. They also organised an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on the last day of the school term. Parents are continuing to become more engaged with the school community such as the newly established prayer group with six parents attending to date.

The following members of Hertford St Andrew's congregation are on the Governing Body : Laura Ramsay, Rod Willis, Chris Seward, Helle Penson and Kathy Kennedy and our vicar, Alan. We said goodbye to Peter Murphy and Lyn Payne, thanking them for their hard work and valuable contributions. Stuart Aldridge continues to be the Chair. Governors remain committed to working closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to monitor all aspects of school life to ensure the best possible outcomes for the school. We continued to hold regular committee, full governing body (FGB) and monitoring meetings throughout the year.

You can find out more about the governors and their role on the school website. Please feel free to speak to myself or any of the governors if you wish to enquire more about the school and/or the opportunities of becoming a member of our highly valued team or a volunteer to help in the school.

In conclusion, there is a continued emphasis on growth and improvement at Hertford St Andrew where the governors, Headteacher and staff are ambitious and committed to improving and sustaining a thriving environment for all our children.

Laura Ramsay

Foundation Governor

April 2024s

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