

Bures CEVC Primary School – Update for the Parish Councils - March 2023

We have had a busy time since my last update.

Firstly, I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Michaela Harris will take up her role as our Headteacher from 1 September 2023.

By way of a quick introduction, I asked her to say a few words:

"I am hugely excited to be taking on the role of Headteacher from September. I see it as a privilege to be working in my local area and being able to support the community. I am currently Executive Headteacher at Otley and Winesham Primary Schools - two small, village schools near Ipswich. I am passionate about a high quality of education for all children as well as extra-curricular activities to enhance their learning. I am ambitious for the children, and the school, and have high expectations for all. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and the children in the near future."

Secondly, we have had an Ofsted Inspection and I am delighted to say that we have secured a Good grading from Ofsted, in all areas.

This was the first routine inspection of the school since 2007.

The key messages from the Inspection are:

Bures is a happy, supportive place to learn. Pupils behave and learn well.

Pupils feel safe and are proud of their school.

Leaders have high expectations and want pupils to achieve well.

Pupils do not feel judged when things go wrong. Teachers help them to put things right.

Bullying is rare but when it does happen adults help to sort it out quickly.

Pupils understand that everyone is equal. They learn about a wide range of people, including different family arrangements and religions. They show respect for others' views and values. They discuss world events and show a mature understanding of complex situations.

Teachers teach confidently. Teachers know their pupils well and are proud of what they achieve.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive effective support. Leaders have systems for identifying pupils' needs quickly. They have a range of expertise in school to support pupils to achieve their individual targets. As a result, pupils with SEND develop their confidence, independence and achieve well.

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are well trained. They update their training throughout the year. They know the risks that pupils face. Leaders respond promptly to concerns from staff and support pupils and families well. They work effectively with other agencies to protect pupils if they need to.

Governors are dedicated leaders of the school. School leaders appreciate their support and expertise.

We know that in some areas of the curriculum there is more work to be done around sequencing, subject knowledge and vocabulary, and these areas will form the core for the School's Learning Development Plan going forwards.

To read the whole report please visit the school's website.

Ms Slater, added, "It would be an entirely reasonable question to ask why I am so pleased when the overall judgement has moved from Outstanding to Good since the previous inspection in 2007. The answer to that is that both our school community and the educational landscape have changed significantly in the 16 years since our last inspection. Alongside this Ofsted has raised its expectations significantly making it far harder to gain the top grades. My own thoughts are that this is entirely the right thing to do. Schools need to be challenged and it is quite right that the standards demanded from us are as high as they can be. To be a 'Good' school in 2023 you have to achieve incredibly well in all areas.

The Inspectors carried out a range of activities during their two days in school exploring all areas of our work, gathering evidence from staff and pupils. They were very impressed with the leadership and learning in all the core subjects – reading, writing, mathematics and science but as you will see from the report felt that in two of the foundation subjects leaders needed to provide further guidance to teachers to secure high quality learning for all children. We were already working on making improvements to these subjects and will continue to do this with the added benefit of the guidance received during the inspection.

I would like to thank the school team and our Governors who have worked tirelessly to secure this excellent inspection report. I would also like to thank all parents/carers who support our work so well because without that partnership the children would not flourish as they do."

Thank you for taking an interest in our School. If you know of anyone who is looking for a Primary School place for their child or children, please contact the School Office to see where we currently have spaces.

Kind regards,

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
16/03/23

