

## Bures CEVC School and Nursery

### 2019 / 2020 Reflections on the Year

My mother had recommended that I read *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, so it duly arrived in the post a couple of days later. The opening lines set me thinking, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... "

None of us could have imagined how this academic year would play out. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has suffered loss and hardship over these difficult months and going forwards. The worst of times, from which, as I write, I do hope we are beginning to emerge.

However, at the same time it has demonstrated the best of times, through the manner in which our staff have responded since Lockdown in March. So ably led by Ms Slater and the Senior Leadership Team, the School has carefully navigated through many challenges in a calm and professional manner, in normal term time and through what we used to call the school holidays. Throughout these long months the dedication and commitment of our staff has shone through and on behalf of the whole school community I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all. We are blessed with a wonderful team at Bures and an exceptional Headteacher.

The question recently posed of me, "Who runs this School ?" can be a difficult one to answer.

The simple response is, "It depends".

For matters Operational the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team take the lead.

The Governing Body has three main responsibilities, alongside careful stakeholder engagement:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The Staff are employed by Suffolk County Council and the Diocesan Education Team offer valuable support, advice, and encouragement.

Statutory instruction and guidance is regularly produced by the Government. The Parish Council take a keen interest in our activities and we are blessed with wonderful relations with both local churches.

And Parents are keen to have input also and support their children's learning both inside and outside of the classroom; and particularly during Lockdown.

The decision to close the School back in March was taken by the Government, as were the decisions around re-opening.

Against this backdrop and trying to ensure that the School's resources were being fully used, I was minded to reflect on our School vision and values.

### **Vision – what it is we are aiming to achieve.**

Our School Vision words are:

**Explore      Believe      Shine**

Through exciting and adventurous learning experiences within a healthy, safe and dynamic environment, we help everyone in our community to explore and realise their limitless potential.

With a strong Christian ethos, we promote belief and faith in ourselves and others, courageously sharing, caring and forgiving, whilst celebrating both our similarities and differences.

We challenge our pupils, staff and parents to become life-long learners who have the confidence, self-esteem, resilience and desire to achieve excellence and shine in all they do.

**The Adventure awaits .....**

### **Values – a value is a principle that guides our thinking and behaviour.**

The Governors have identified five values which are core to all we do:

**Excellence / Integrity / Collaboration / Inclusivity / Ambition**

In addition to the six Christian values we uphold:

**Responsibility / Tolerance / Friendship / Forgiveness / Compassion / Courage**

This vision and these values are important to us, since they define us and how we behave; to foster important life skills, not just for our children, but for everyone.

As we move out from Lockdown, there is talk of a “New Normal”. Now whilst I am not clear precisely what shape that might take, I am certain of two things.

We need to serve our communities, to support and appreciate each other, and not just at times of stress.

We need to be fair and balanced, considering carefully the needs of others as well as our own.

We look forward to next year, hopefully richer from the experiences of this one.

Tim Fairbairn

Chair of Governors

July 2020