



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL



## THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Corn Street, Witney, Oxon, OX28 6DY

Executive Head: Ms Debbie Seccull  
Head of School: Mrs K Harding-Jones

Telephone: 01993 702392  
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[www.thebattschool.org.uk](http://www.thebattschool.org.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

Dear Families

### **Executive Headteacher's Bulletin March 2023**

The beginning of this half term marks the halfway point in the school year and whilst, for me the time between September and now seems to have been incredibly busy, I can still hardly believe how time has flown! I hope that you all enjoyed some of the very early spring sunshine we had over half-term.

#### **Whole School Vision**

It seems fitting, with the promise that Spring brings, that we are in a position to now share the new school vision we have been working on in school. As I explained in the last bulletin, the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), who inspect Church of England schools in addition to Ofsted, require schools to have an inclusive and distinctive vision that it lives out in all its relationships and partnerships.

The Vision we propose is as follows:

**Love Everyone, Love the Adventure of Learning**

The Batt is an inclusive and nurturing school, guided by Christ's teaching on love through the parable of the Good Samaritan. We enable everyone in our community to flourish by encouraging supportive friendships, respect for self and others and perseverance in all things. This develops a life-long love of learning and commitment to service.

**'Love your neighbour, as you love yourself' Luke 10:27**

We have worked to ensure it encapsulates the established values (chosen in partnership with the children already) and ethos already held dear across our school community, while also clarifying the mission we believe is at the heart of what we do.

We also feel that it also compliments the vision at St Mary's Infants school:

**'Together we love to learn and learn to love'**

St Mary's Infant School is committed to inspiring every individual. We embed the Christian value of love across school life because we believe that a person who feels loved, secure and happy can flourish. We encourage everyone to achieve their potential, develop their talents, celebrate their uniqueness and rejoice in their relationships with others.

**'Do Everything in Love' 1 Corinthians 16:14**

The next steps on the journey of establishing our Vision at The Batt is to seek feedback from parents and work with the children, through the School Council, to ensure they understand and agree with our intent.

We will be asking parents for direct feedback by email this week (so please look out for this) and discussing the vision with children in their class over the remainder of this term.

We then hope to formally launch the vision in the Summer Term with focus through collective worship and a 'Vision Day' - where children can celebrate the vision creatively through a range of activities which we hope will culminate in some community artwork for permanent display.





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### Curriculum Development and Website Updates

We have now populated the curriculum pages on our website for most subjects - with subject leaders having published curriculum statements and planning overviews for their particular subject. You can access these via the drop-down menu under the learning tab on the School Website.

We continue to work on our Geography and History schemes of work, which we want to fully update from next September and we'll let you know when new overviews of these are available. We have also created class pages and hope to upload content to them this week. We're looking to develop these over time as a first 'port of call' for information about your child's learning in school.

### Staffing

It has been a pleasure to welcome Miss Rebecca Gray into Foxes Class. Miss Gray brings a wealth of experience to school including working at Harriers Banbury Academy and at an International School in Tanzania. It is now our hope that this brings stability to this particular class for the remainder of the year.

We also welcome Mr Graham Reynolds in the role of Caretaker this term. We hope that his expertise will now support further maintenance and improvements to the school site.

### Site Improvement

We have returned this half term to new school signs and a refurbishment on the area to the rear of our Key Stage 1 classes. This means rotten decking previously in place has been removed, the ground levelled, and new astro-turf laid. This now means that all of our infants have access to outdoor learning, separate from the main playground.

We are now arranging for the painting out of an old mural to refresh the area and working on a plan to fund additional outside resources.

Future improvement to the site now moves inside where we hope to refurbish several very tired classrooms and corridor areas - though it's likely this work will have to wait for the summer break.

### Residential Surveys

Thanks to those parents in Years 3-6 who took the time to complete our survey on school residential visits.

Results showed overwhelming support for 3-4-night visits in Year 6 and though it is too late to change arrangements for next academic year (residential centres often take bookings more than a year ahead), we will look at changing our residential visits offer in Year 6 from 2024-2025 onwards in the light of this and other responses given in the survey.

The option of a residential visit for children in Year 4 was also very popular so we have moved quickly on this and are offering the opportunity for children in Year 4 to attend an overnight stay at Hill End in June. A letter has been sent separately to Year 4 parents about this.

As will all visits there need to be enough families wanting their children to attend to make residential trips viable - but in recognition of the benefits of residential visits identified by school and now parents we will continue to work to make these available.

Results of the surveys and comments made can be found here on the school website.





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### Lunches

We are aware of a number of concerns raised by parents about school lunches with regard to portion sizes. We are monitoring this situation and are currently in talks with our caterers about this.

### Early Years Provision and Survey

Thank you to those parents whose children are in Grasshoppers for completing the EYFS survey. If you still wish to do this the survey is open until Friday 3rd March.

We will use the results of this to inform our transition programme and provision for reception moving forwards. We'll publish and share findings once the survey is closed.

We are also excited that our Reception teams at The Batt and St Mary's Infants School to be taking part in a joint ODST / Early Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale research project looking at improving early language acquisition in reception and look forward to the professional development and opportunities to work with colleagues in other schools that this will provide.

### Transition to Year 3

As we move apace through the year, teachers, and Leaders at both The Batt and St Mary's have begun to plan a transition programme that will support all children in Year 2 as they move into KS2.

We appreciate that for children at St Mary's this is a massive change in their school career, but even for those at The Batt the transition from KS1 to KS2 is also significant. As per last year, we will ensure that all children have opportunities to explore their new learning environment, meet their new teachers and get to know some of their future friends so that they are as confident as they can be when they start in Year 3 in September.

We also understand that for children to feel secure in school, their parents have to feel confident about arrangements too, so there will also be opportunities for parents to understand more about KS2 at the Batt, get to know relevant staff and meet as a parent group. Once arrangements are finalised, we'll be in touch to make you aware of dates and activities planned.

### Easter Services

This year we are joining forces with St Mary's Infants and hold a joint Easter Service for children in Reception Year 1 and Year 2 on Thursday 30th March and a separate service for our older children on Friday 31st March.

We feel that as well as supporting children in building partnerships between our infant classes, this arrangement will also allow for a more age-appropriate celebration of Easter for all of our children.

Details of both services will be shared nearer the time, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Yours Faithfully

Deborah Seccull  
Executive Headteacher





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