

# Thomas Bullock CE VA Primary School

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**Headteacher Paul Madsen**

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May 2012

## Reports to Parish Councils

Dear Sirs,

I have listed many of the significant developments in the school throughout the past year – in no particular order. I hope there is sufficient detail, however, if you would like more information please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you

Paul Madsen

### **Mixed year classes**

For the second year in a row we have had mixed year classes. We currently have one class made up of year 1 and 2 children and a second class made up of year 2 and 3 children. This was forced upon us due to the number of children in the school which led to lower funding. This in turn means that we cannot afford to employ one teacher per year group.

However, these classes have proved to be successful with the majority of children on track to achieve their expected attainment by the end of year 6. The mix of the classes is based upon ability providing the children with the correct level of learning that meets their needs. This is likely to continue in the future.

### **Improving Results**

The attainment of the children in maths, reading and writing is beginning to improve. This year we expect our school to be above minimum national expectations (though still below national averages) and we expect this progress to continue. This is as a result of consistently good to outstanding teaching and well targeted intervention group work for the children.

### **Teaching Standards**

Teaching standards continue to rise. Recently OFSTED published a new set of expectations of class teachers which have required teachers to improve further. Our excellent team continues to deliver a good standard of education to all children in respect of these new standards.

### **School logo, brochure and signs**

The new school logo has been further adopted across the school. It now appears outside in the form of two large signs, on the school brochure (which has been significantly modernised) and on a large welcome mat in the school entrance hall. The logo represents the school values which are a very significant and powerful part of the school and continue to gain a high profile in the community.

### **Library**

We have recently spent approximately £9000 on refurbishing and improving our school library. It looks fantastic thanks to Mrs Phelps vision. The profile of reading in the school has shot up and this will have a long term impact on the standard of reading and writing in the school. This was funded by the Thomas Bullock Trust.

### **Courtyard**

Along with the library some money was spent in freshening up the courtyard – this is going to be called 'The Reading Garden.' Mr Creasey and a few other teachers and teaching assistants put in some heavy work to make this look a much cleaner, colourful and more inviting place to be.

### **Outdoor play**

Miss Wright (new reception teacher from September 2011) has worked hard to develop the outdoor environment for the reception children. We are soon to take delivery of a significant resource which encourages creative thinking and play. This has cost approximately £5000 and has been funded by the Thomas Bullock Trust Fund.

### **Reception class**

Plans have been agreed to extend the reception class room and we are currently tendering quotes. This is essential work as we are expecting a much larger intake of children from September and will further improve the children's provision and education in the Early Years.

### **Links with High schools**

We have recently signed a contract with Dereham Neatherd High School for them to provide a much more bespoke, on the door step ICT technical support service. This will not only help us to manage our current ICT hardware and software but also enable us to have greater control over the development and costs of ICT in future years.

### **Links with Shipdham Playgroup**

Miss Wright has worked hard alongside Mrs Dwyer (Playgroup manager) to ensure the practice in both Reception class and Playgroup is similar. This ensures improved and smoother progress for the children and much improved transition between the Playgroup and school.

### **Number of children attending our school**

After many years of dropping numbers this year has seen a steady increase. While we cannot be sure of all the reasons behind this but we feel that the improvements we have made recently at our school have helped to improve our image in the wider community.

### **Special Needs**

Miss Wright became our Special Educational Needs coordinator in September 2011. She is currently undertaking training to gain the statutory qualifications for this role – the first SENCo in the school to do so.

### **Children's Activities**

We organised two very successful residential trips this year. Year 4 spent two days at the Horstead Children's centre (run by Norwich Diocese) and the year 5 & 6 children spent three days at Holt Hall. These were extremely well attended and very popular.

We have also had an Artist in residence who has worked with a group of children linked to the Artist For Climate Change project in Norfolk. This has resulted in the creation of a 'Wind Turbine' and a higher profile with regards to environmental issues amongst the children.

We have recently completed a Book Week linked to the development of the new library. This culminated in a Super Heroes day where the majority of children and staff dressed as a Hero for the day and linked the features of a super hero to those of every day heroes such as parents, teachers, nurses etc.

