



## **School update April 2017**

Hello All,

I can hardly believe a year has passed by since my previous update to you all. The school has been an academy for almost one year now. This has brought with it challenges and benefits. I am happy to report that the latter has outweighed the challenges. Staff and pupils have enjoyed visiting the variety of schools within the MAT. As Head Teacher, I have had the opportunity to work with an exciting team of forward thinking Head Teachers. We share school improvement days and specialists across the schools. The MAT has recently put in a bid to build a brand new 'Free School' in Worcester to help the city meet the needs of a growing population, the outcome of this bid will be known soon. Great Witley too, has put in a bid for a substantial capital grant to repair the roof and refurbish the main school toilets.

The schools remains oversubscribed; we currently have 160 pupils on roll. Places for pupils in Reception 2017 are yet to be announced but Great Witley will be oversubscribed again for the fourth year in row.

The school continues to respond to the ongoing building work and planning applications in the village. We are hoping to increase the number of classrooms we have by taking delivery of a refurbished mobile classroom. The plan is for this to be in place for September 2017, thus enabling the school to teach every year group separately. This will ensure provision for our pupils continues to be of the highest quality. We are also looking to improve the perimeter fence, starting with a new fence along the front boundary of the school. A recent van crash and a safeguarding audit have prompted the Governors to implement improvements. The fence will be similar to the one installed around the Quartergreen, all weather court. The fence will be installed in the next few weeks.

We have welcomed several teaching students onto the staff team this year. They have supported lessons in Year 6, Year 4/5, Year 1 and in the Reception class. This is great professional development for our staff who act as mentors and it also ensures we are up to date with new ideas from the initial teacher training courses and the University of Worcester. The teaching staff team has remained the same this year which gives the school a wonderful mix of fresh ideas and stability for pupils and parents.

We continue to enjoy the support of volunteers who give up their time to support the school. We have a number of reading volunteers but can always make use of new skills and talents, perhaps outdoor skills with Forest School or as a gardener. Please contact the school office on 01299 896 246 if you wish to volunteer in some way to support the school. A

recent project involved weaving our willow sculpture into a dragon design – the outcome can be seen in photos on the school website. We are grateful to the team of volunteers who helped to support this project.

The Annual Harvest Tea party and Christmas Sing-a-long afternoons continue to be popular events within the local community. The children enjoy having such a receptive audience, please look out for an invite nearer the time. We try to coincide with the Harvest service at Great Witley Church, so pencil in the Friday prior to the Harvest Service.

Finally, if you have any further questions or queries regarding the school please feel free to contact me via the school office.

Many thanks,

Mrs Karen Banford

Head Teacher