



Report to Bleasby Parish Meeting April 2024

The school currently has 132 children on roll, this is a significant drop from last year as a result of a large Year 6 cohort leaving at the end of the year and reduced intakes at reception. This is a reflection of the decreasing number of children living in our catchment villages, with only 62% of children coming from the catchment villages of Hoveringham, Halloughton, Thurgarton and Halloughton.

However, in recent weeks we have been contacted by a number of families hoping to move into the area.

The having 40 children that come to the school from out of catchment is of benefit to the school as it increases the budget and therefore the resources that we have. One drawback is that there is no transport for these families and we therefore have an issue with parents parking on the road at drop off and pick up time.

Parking:

As mentioned earlier in the report, parental parking continues to be problematic for local residents. Parents are regularly reminded about parking legally, safely and courteously, with a range of suggestions for reducing the number of cars and amount of time that they are parking.

On the week beginning 15th May 2023 we took part in 'Walk to School Week'. The Waggon and Horses kindly agreed to allow parents to use their carpark in this week. This was very successful at the time and coincided with a week of lovely weather. We will be repeating this in the week beginning 20th May.

Manor Farm Tea Shoppe also kindly let us use their carpark when the level crossing was closed.

Support from the Parish Council in encouraging parking measures and solutions would be welcomed!

Partnership with the Community:

We have really appreciated the continued connection with St Mary's Church since the retirement of Reverend Phil. Lay Reader, David Hanson has led a collective worship each half term and Rachael Andrew and Diana Temperley have both been into school and have welcomed us into the church over the year.

Partnership with the local community since the last meeting has included:

- Singing and Maypole dancing for the village coronation celebration.
- Services at the Church for the leavers, new starters, Harvest (with foodbank collection), Christmas (held at the school due to the high winds) and Easter.
- Making advent crowns with support of church members.

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Registered Office: The Minster Trust for Education, Rufford Court, Wellow Road, Eakring, Newark, NG22 0DF



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- Two visits by the choir to Hazelford Ferry Nursing Home.
- Beginning to work with Grasshoppers to increase appreciation of the Jubilee Ponds and develop our own wild area.

Curriculum Development:

Two of this year's enquiries (the questions around which are learning is focused) have been able to link particularly well with our local area. In answering the question 'What can we learn from people of the past', the children learned why Bleasby was a good place for an early settlement and the resources that make it a good place for people to live. They also visited Southwell and learned about the Roman people who once lived there.

This term's enquiry asks 'How can we look after Bleasby's natural environments?'. Our youngest children are exploring the wildlife that is around us and how they can look after it, the Y3/4 children are learning about the importance of farming and the oldest children are investigating aquatic habitats. This enquiry will see the children visiting Brackenhurst, the Jubilee Ponds, having visits from local farmers and developing our own grounds to support wildlife. We are also taking the opportunity to enter Britain in Bloom!

More information can be found on the school website which has recently been redesigned bleasbyprimary.org.uk. We also share updates on what we are doing on our Instargam account @bleasbyprimary.

Volunteers and Staffing:

The school's offer to children is very much enhanced through volunteers whether through donations, organisation of events, running of clubs (Garden and Grow, choir, recorders) being a school governor, being an interviewee/specialist speaker, assisting with maintenance or helping out with children in school. We very much appreciate all volunteers, some of whom are parents and others who are members of the village community.

Please do get in touch if you would like to support the school in some way. In particular, the BSFA are now trying hard to recruit new people, including chair and treasurer, please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. The BSFA work very hard to provide events for the school community to enjoy and to raise money for us and are invaluable.

We currently have a vacancy for a midday supervisor two days per week and will be advertising a caretaker position in the near future – these are both great opportunities to be part of a friendly team and to make a real difference to the school which might suit a local person particularly well.

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The Building and Site:

A new perimeter fence was put in place during the summer holidays, increasing the security of the site. However, during the installation an 'outlier' badger sett was discovered and so one corner had to be left unfinished while we sought permission to change the positioning of the fence. Over the Easter holidays, the last part of the fence was completed, giving us an enclosed area that we are now developing and including a pond. (Thanks to local volunteers)

The carpark was resurfaced during the summer holiday. As the Parish Council are aware, this had to go back in for planning permission due to a historic extension of the playground.

A new sign giving information about the out of school opening of the field for local residents was put up by the Parish Council. The new sign gives a much more welcoming message and match the school's other signage. It should be noted however that the key holder resigned their duties some time ago. This hasn't been a problem over the winter due to the field being waterlogged for many months, but may be something the Parish Council wish to revisit.

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