



Manor Primary Academy

Fighting the Fires of our Future

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Headteacher Mr S. Robson

Manor Primary Academy – annual report to the Parish Council – April 2024

This has been another excellent year at Manor. Results across school have been strong and the curriculum offer of the school has been enhanced. Subject leaders across school have worked hard to develop the sequencing and progression of learning in each subject. This work is where our being part of a trust is especially important as we have a broad network of schools to call on for support and expertise. The collaborative approach of Fierté MAT has certainly given this work a rigour that we didn't have before. It is now just over a year since we joined Fierté and became an academy and we are more convinced than ever that it was the correct decision. We have termly visits from the Trust Vice CEO and other Trust leaders who work alongside us to monitor and build a picture of what we are currently offering in a chosen area that we wish to focus on e.g. a subject area like reading or French, style of teaching pedagogy, personal development etc. There is a strongly collaborative approach and positives are picked out and fed back as well as any areas that we could develop or improve. This is a bit like Ofsted but they don't judge us and walk away. They are invested in helping us to improve and will work with us to find examples of excellence that we can go and see elsewhere. We also find that we end up with visitors coming to see the good things we are doing from across the Trust. This is important scrutiny that we have as a new academy. Ofsted will be due to visit again in the new school year following a window being left from our date of conversion to academy status.

Staffing has remained stable with a small flurry of changes in recent months. Mrs Rogers who worked 2 days a week covering other teachers for their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time) left to join another Trust school where she had more days and was made Early Years leader. She was replaced by Holly Clarkson as an HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) for one day a week. The second day of cover by Mrs Rogers has been picked up by Mr Robson. We have also said farewell to Mrs Cooper after 23 years as a dinner lady.

School has been enhanced by the reforming of the PTA by an enthusiastic group of parents. They have been very active in putting on fun activities for the children like discos and film nights as well as Easter treasure hunts round the village. They have also provided a second hand uniform service by collecting unwanted uniform and selling it for a small charge back to other parents. These activities and many more have added to the social life of the school bringing the community together and raising some valuable funds at the same time. As their confidence grows they will hopefully start to put on events that will be open to the village and wider community such as the summer fayre etc.

Attendance at Manor has historically been high but we have not recovered since Covid times. This is a national problem (we are slightly above national levels) but Manor is still well below where it used to be. This is a combination of very genuine illness such as chicken pox outbreaks but also includes more holidays taken in term time and some children being kept off for minor illnesses. Pupil numbers had dropped last year to 88 at one point but have crept back up to 92 currently. We have 12 first choice applications for Reception in September with 10 Year 6 children leaving. We also have had a number of enquiries for children who are moving to the village over the summer to start in September so we hope numbers will continue to rise. Our funding is largely based on pupil numbers but there is a lag effect with budgets being set on a census carried out the previous year meaning our budget remains tight and we need other income streams such as before and after school child care to help support our budget.

We are still looking for local people with the best interest of the school at heart to join our local governing board. We always manage to fill our parent and staff governor positions but need people who can bring an outside objective perspective. Anyone interested in this, please get in touch with the school office!

Simon Robson