

St Stephens C of E Junior School, Kingswood, Bristol

I have been asked to report to you on the past year at school. I hope this covers all the areas you wish to hear about.

This has been a year of change for the school. We said goodbye to Mrs Bronwen Kucharski's, when she retired at the end of July and have welcomed Miss Louisa Wilson as new head teacher. Louisa has joined us from Christ Church C of E Primary School, Clifton and brings with her six years of experience of an outstanding school.

However she has not had an easy start with Ofsted visiting us within three weeks of her appointment and rating us as 'Requires Improvement' . Changes in Ofsted's focus meant a difficult inspection for all involved but a fair one and we feel the outcome was as expected.

This has not phased Miss Wilson and the staff and a tough action plan was implemented and has been rigorously implemented with results being seen in all areas of the children's learning and development.

Changes within the area of governance have also meant a learning curve for all of us within the governing body and all of us have been on training to embed these new expectations.

We have been supported by the Local Authority, HMI Steffie Penney and many other agencies as we work towards our goal of becoming good. All reports so far are that we are well on our way although new changes within curriculum and assessment will be the next challenge for the school.

The children continue to work hard and embrace all changes whole heartily. The sports teams have been successful in football, netball and cross country and in school clubs range from computing to Lego and are all attended with gusto.

The staff, teaching and non-teaching, have also adjusted well to a new style of headship. We have increased the number of teachers to support the action plans and building around the school has increased the amount of learning spaces.

The school is continuing to build links with Kahengye School in Rukungiri. July saw another successful visit by three of our teachers, Mr Evans, Mrs Coote and Miss Martin.

The pupils continue to attend our church for celebration services. Assemblies in school are also faith based and Miss Wilson uses the Values for Life which was created by the Dioceses of Bristol, Gloucester and Salisbury. She has also invited Jane Simkins, the Children's Minister from Christ Church, Clifton who has been sharing some fantastic services with the children based on the values of compassion and friendship so far. Miss Wilson is keen to increase links with the church and looks forward to working with everyone in the future.

Unfortunately due to various work commitments Nicola and Caroline have been unable to continue with the Fair Trade this year but we hope they will come back in the future.

As Chair of Governors this has been an enlightening year for myself but enjoyable. I would like to invite everyone to come visit us and meet Miss Wilson and myself so we can share the changes and our future goals. I would also like to let you know that we currently have two vacancies for foundation governors since Caroline Smith has sadly had to resign. This is an exciting time for the school and we would value your support and input as we move forward.

Becky Drake - Chair of Governors, St Stephens Junior C of E School