

ST STEPHENS CofE (VC) JUNIOR SCHOOL

The past year has seen the school grow in strength. This has to be accredited to the excellent leadership of Mrs Kucharski and support given by all teaching and non-teaching staff.

2012 has been a busy year for the school with Ofsted visiting in March. An overall judgement of satisfactory was given. Ofsted reported many good attributes to the school.

Ofsted reported:

‘The Head Teacher and other leaders demonstrate an ambitious vision for the school and are successfully driving improvements.’

‘The impact of the schools developing curriculum can be seen in the rising trend of attainment.’

The school is continuing to build links with Kahengye School in Rukungiri. Mrs Kucharski, Mr Payne and Ms Coleman visited Kahengye School in July. Mr Evans, Mrs Coote and Miss Martin are busy fundraising for their visit in July 2013.

The pupils continue to attend our church for celebration services. Assemblies in school are also faith based and Mrs Kucharski uses the Values for Life which was created by the Dioceses of Bristol, Gloucester and Salisbury. I am also pleased to report that the links between our church and the school are being strengthened and Nicola Read, Julie Fudge, Kristine Lockwood and myself have continued to visit school to take an assembly. We are always warmly welcomed by everyone and the children enjoy the puppet shows.

The school has also embraced Fairtrade. Nicola and myself try to attend school on a monthly basis for Fairtrade sales after school in the playground. At Christmas we also held a special Fairtrade sale in which children were could bring money to purchased small gifts for family and friends. The children visit the stall during the afternoon and after purchasing their gifts they then wrapped them ready to take home. We were very impressed by the attitude and politeness of the children.

In September I resigned as Chair of Governors due to work commitments and Mrs Becky Drake was elected as Chair of Governors. Becky did not have an easy start to her role as Chair when regretfully she received notification in November of Mrs Kucharski’s plan to retire from her post as Head Teacher of the school with effect from September 2013. The Governors accepted Mrs Kucharski’s resignation and since then the Governors have been working hard to start the recruitment process.

Carolyn Smith, Ex-Chair of Governors & Foundation Governor