Report for Atworth Parish Assembly 2014

Mr Simon Futcher, Headteacher.

Since my appointment in January of this year, it has been a busy yet exciting time at Churchfields, the Village School. I would like to thank the whole school community for demonstrating such immense support. January also saw a new teacher take the helm of our year three/four class in Atworth as their substantive teacher left to have her first child. Miss Connelly, who is in her first year of teaching, has settled in well to school life but is no doubt presently enjoying the Easter break.

The education landscape is renowned for the speed by which it changes and this year is no exception. September will see the implementation of a new National Curriculum, Special Needs Code of Practice and assessment methods. The staff and governors are working alongside our cluster schools to develop our provision, ensuring a smooth and effective transition for our pupils.

The 21st Century School is upon us and we are investing in our information technology infrastructure and training to prepare our children for a changing world. We are about to adopt the International Primary Curriculum to extend our pupils' understanding of the developing global community, and the developing work of our School Council and Eco-Council will give many of our pupils a taste of the responsibilities they will undertake in wider society in later life. For example, after consulting all pupils, the School Council have selected a charity for our school to support, and are already raising money. We are currently looking into ways we can support our local community further in the future.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) goes from strength-to-strength as we look at building on their regular, supportive fund-raising activities to link them further with school improvement. Last month, they contributed significant financial resources to the reorganisation of our learning environments, making them more stimulating and motivating for our children.

'Forest School' gives our pupils the opportunity to learn skills and knowledge in the outside environment, a resource often under-utilised in today's modern world. Children have the chance to explore and learn about nature, develop skills such as safe fire-making, and even an opportunity to toast marshmallows! We are currently looking at extending our Forest School provision to enhance the learning of 'writing for a purpose', our current main area for school improvement.

Churchfields strongly believes in a holistic approach to children's education which is why a number of events have run over the previous spring terms focussing on sports, drama and music, amongst others. Our choir performed recently at a large venue in Bath and were praised by members of the public not only for their skills but for their behaviour and politeness; Our older children recently staged a production of 'Joseph' for parents where we uncovered more acting and singing talent; and our football team continues to represent the school successfully with their abilities and admirable sportsmanship.

I have immensely enjoyed my short time as headteacher of Churchfields, the Village School, and look forward to meeting colleagues of the Parish and strengthening our links in the near future.