Report for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 30th May 2024

Horningsham Primary School is a maintained school within the Wiltshire Local Authority. We are lucky to benefit from close links to the local community; the children have regular visits from the Longleat Keepers and are treated to a Christmas Party and visit to the lights. The school also makes use of the village hall and field for sports and other events. The PTA (Called the Friends of Horningsham Primary School – FOHPs) uses the hall for events but has found the cost of hiring means that it is no longer viable to use it for small events so they are looking further afield.

The school currently has 70 children organised in three classes, Reception and Year 1, aged 4-6; Years 2 and 3, aged 6-8 and Years 4, 5 and 6 aged 8-11. We have had 10 applications for the 2024 year, which is high compared with the surrounding schools with similar admission numbers. The children come mainly from the village and the surrounding towns of Frome and Warminster. There are three classrooms and a lovely sized hall, which is used for assemblies, lunchtime and PE sessions. The grounds are very attractive and provide opportunities for both play and outdoor learning. There is a grassed area, hard surface playground, adventure playground, the Magic Wood, pond, secret garden and orchard.

The school is a listed building, with the responsibility for its maintenance being shared between Wiltshire and Longleat. It does need constant maintenance due to its age and condition and having two landlords can be challenging.

The teaching staff comprise four teachers and four teaching assistants. The head teacher, Carole Andrews, is currently off sick and the Assistant Head Teacher, Odele Lapham is the Acting Head Teacher; she is also responsible for leading provision for children with additional needs. The staff also includes two admin officers and a lunchtime supervisor. All the staff are very caring and highly committed to providing a high quality, creative learning environment for the children.

The staff have worked hard to create a vibrant and creative curriculum, using a thematic and cross curricular approach to learning. This helps the children to be creative thinkers who love their learning. The children also benefit from lots of opportunities for extra-curricular activities such as a wide variety of sport and educational visits.

The school has a nurturing, friendly feel and is valued for its ability to create a family atmosphere with a strong focus on the well-being of staff and children. It has recently joined other local schools to form the Compass Cluster. (Wylye Valley, Sutton Veny, Crockerton, Chilmark and shortly, Sambourne) The schools work together to provide opportunities for teachers and children to learn from one another. This is particularly valuable where the cohorts of children are very small, particularly in Year 6 as the children can meet other Year 6 cohorts in preparation for their transfer to secondary school. Most children go to Kingdown, with some going to Gillingham or Warminster.

The Governing Body helps the leadership team to lead the school. It consists of two parent governors elected by the parents, a staff governor, six governors from the local community and the Head Teacher.

The Governors are responsible for:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
* Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
* Ensuring the voice of stakeholders is heard

The governors also ensure that the school complies fully with statutory safeguarding procedures.

Stephanie Storrar

Chair of Governors