## ST GEORGE'S CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANGTON MATRAVERS

## ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL

March 2014

The governors of the school are pleased to report that the move into the new building is now complete. This report highlights some of the activities and achievements which over the past year have continued to be provided for the pupils in a safe, caring and aspirational environment. St George's is a very good school which works hard to maintain and improve its provision and outcomes for all pupils.

Total number of pupils on the roll is 113. One class has 31 pupils because it consists of two year groups combined; the other classes have 21 or fewer pupils.

Current staffing levels are: 5 full-time teachers, 2 temporary part-time teachers, 1 permanent part-time teacher, 7 teaching assistants (full and part-time) and 3 lunchtime supervisors.

The Head Teacher has managed the transition into the new building and the day to day running of the school, despite the upheaval of major building works for the past eighteen months. The focus has been on the safety of those in temporary accommodation and the maintenance of teaching and learning standards. The teacher who took maternity leave from April 2013 to January 2014 is currently job-sharing with another part-time teacher. Two volunteer helpers became qualified and were appointed as teaching assistants from April 2013, and from January 2014 an additional two TAs were appointed to cover the reduction in hours caused by retirement and a reduction in hours. Continual professional development and statutory training have been carried out as appropriate; some in co-operation with other schools in the cluster, and visits have been made to see some outstanding schools.

Curriculum. This is based on the National Curriculum using a wide range of topics through which skills and knowledge are developed and extended. An effective ICT infrastructure with new hardware has been installed in the new building to ensure access for all pupils, so that their learning throughout the curriculum can be enhanced.

Achievement at the end of year 2 was above the Dorset average for all subjects and well above for reading and maths. Attainment is generally good at each key stage, and by the end of year 4 it matches or exceeds Dorset averages. The new year 6 are a small but strong cohort who achieved well at the end of year 5 and are on track to achieve high standards in reading, writing and maths which will exceed those expected nationally. Pupils have a positive attitude to learning and are proud of their achievements. . To raise attainment levels the school is participating in a Dorset initiative, Maths Matters, with others in the Purbeck pyramid, and with the cluster schools. In line with Ofsted's objectives, the school's attendance record will be a focus for improvement in the coming year, as a means of raising attainment levels.

Enrichment activities. A wide variety of optional lunch-time and after-school activities is offered, such as football, hockey, tag rugby, netball, multi-sports; art, crafts, and book clubs; choir and recorder. New clubs since September 2013 are German club for year 6, dance for years R, 1 and 2, and Lego and gymnastics. All Key Stage 2 pupils have a term's swimming, and all pupils are involved in gardening on the raised beds in the Langton Allotments. Dorset Music Service provided Voice Works in the summer term, and sports coaches are in school three afternoons a week. The various sports teams have played in several tournaments and matches, acquitting themselves well. The school received revalidation of its Healthy Schools Award, and is active in promoting environmental concerns through the Eco Council to which class representatives are elected. Similarly the School Council gives pupils a voice in discussing issues which affect them. Book week was held, when there

was a book fair and dressing—up as fictional characters. A range of speakers came to school to address pupils and/or parents, including a bishop from South Sudan to talk about a school in that country, Dorset Community Safety Team to speak on e-Safety and on Road Safety, and a speaker from the RNLI. Some of this year's educational visits include: Kingston Lacy, Swanage Library, Leeson House, Carey Camp, Winchester Science Centre and an exchange visit with pupils from St Glida's school in Yeovil.

Community links. Key among these has been the school's traditional involvement with St George's church, particularly at its important festivals times such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. An end of year service was held in church as usual in July, even though it was not a Leavers' service, for the oldest pupils remained in school, moving up to form the first year 6. Pupils have taken part in various local musical events, including a workshop at Swanage Primary School and the Purbeck Junior Music Festival in Poole. Some of those playing brass and wind instruments were offered the opportunity to play with Swanage Band. The traditional maypole dancing was performed at St George's church Fete as well as at the school's own Fete, while some pupils took part in the Swanage Carnival on a float organised by the PTA, and earlier helped in the Swanage Beach Clean. Year 6 represented the school recently at the opening of the renovated Priests' Way. The school participated in Purbeck Arts Week, producing works which gained awards. When year 5's topic was WW1, they invited village residents to share their memories of that time with the class.

Many of the activities just mentioned were made possible through the assistance and support of the PTA (Friends of St George's) which has also worked energetically in fundraising and helping at various events, such as Sports Day. Other volunteer helpers assist the school in a variety of ways.

Building. This report would not be complete without reference to the building work which has dominated much of the everyday life of the school, and stretched the patience of many, both in the school and in the village. The governors wish to thank the community for their patience in tolerating the increased traffic and disruption associated with the construction work. Efforts have been made to keep everyone informed throughout the process. Extreme weather and various unavoidable problems have delayed completion, so plans for moving had to be modified, with two classes staying longer in their temporary accommodation than had been intended. However, on 3 March 2014 the whole school, together with the pre-school, settled into their splendid new surroundings. It is expected that work on the playground, also delayed by excessive rainfall, will be completed within weeks. Last term, and again in January, open days were held to give parents and members of the community a chance to look round the renovated original Victorian building. These visitors, and staff and pupils, have expressed praise for the bright, airy classrooms and functional spaces, including the large hall which is used daily for collective worship, sports and as a dining hall, and which has been designed to be available for community use. The governors are most grateful to the Old Malthouse School for renting to St George's their hall, 3 classrooms, and office and storage spaces for the extended duration of the build, and appreciate their allowing the use of their all-weather outdoor sports/play area. These arrangements have made a difficult year substantially less stressful than it might otherwise have been.

The Primary School, and its on-site Pre-School, will be officially dedicated by the Bishop of Sherborne on 13 June 2014.

Further information is available on the school website, and visitors are always welcome at school.