

WELTON ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

'Together we care, learn and thrive'

What a fantastic start to the school year! It has really lifted our spirits seeing happy, smiling, energetic and enthusiastic children returning (and joining us) after the summer break and having everyone back together. There has been great learning happening across our school and seeing children mixing with different year groups and working together has been so good. After-school clubs have restarted, classes are going out on educational visits and children are experiencing much of school as it was pre-Covid. Some children have never experienced how school should be. The beginning of this term has seen us all working very hard as a team (staff and children) to re-establish all the routines we had pre-Covid, such as walking to the hall for lunch and collective worship. Being in collective worship together in one room rather than on a screen (although the children have told us that they enjoy collective worships on Zoom as they get to see everyone's faces not just the person leading them) and coming in from breaktimes. Children are mixing on the playground for the first time in a very long time and for years 1 and 2, this is a first in their school life! It is so good to be able to do all of these things again.

Despite the Covid challenges we faced as a school over the last 18 months we were able to continue with many aspects of our school life, just differently. We are absolutely delighted that we have recently been awarded the International School's Award, a celebration of our school's efforts to include international work as part of our curriculum and embedding it within our school's culture. This is a great achievement and something for which we take great pride. Not only were we delighted with the accreditation but also the feedback we received from the assessors.

"This is a strong application from Welton St Mary's C of E Primary Academy and meets the standard for International School Award Accreditation in 2021. You have provided excellent evidence of eligible activities which have taken place between September 2019 and July 2021. Several of these activities are collaborative with one or more of your overseas partner schools in France, Uganda and Bermuda, and several have a foreign language element. Well done! Summarised in other ways the activities have engaged the whole school across the last two years. There are multiple fine examples of innovative thinking and interesting activities within the international framework. Accreditation is well-deserved. Please congratulate everyone involved in this successful application."

We will continue our international opportunities this year and beyond. It is part of what we are as a school; reaching out to our international community and learning both from and with our global partners.

Nicola Gough
Headteacher