

Report for Foulden Parish Council Monday 8th June 2015

**Susan Lunnun, Acting Headteacher,
Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy**

Since our last report to the Foulden Parish Council the school has again been very busy, not least it has metamorphosed smoothly into an academy with the Diocese of Norwich Education Academies Trust. (DNEAT).

The numbers have increased yet again, partly because, following the closure of the Rainbow Pre School in December 2013, a Nursery age class, taught with Reception, was established in September 2014, enabling us to take children from the age of three. The current number on roll is 81, including Nursery and this is set to rise again in September 2015 to 83; officially we have one place in each of only three age groups across the school; there are 12 joining Reception and up to 8 joining Nursery.

Support staffing has remained stable but there have again been changes to teaching staff; Mrs. Handley left suddenly in June and the Diocese asked me to come out of retirement and step in for a time; whilst the original plan was for me to remain until Christmas, I will depart at the end of August, when Mrs. Christina Galletly, Head of Mundford Church of England Primary Academy, will become the Executive Head of both schools.

The departure of Mrs. Handley also left a gap in class teaching and Mrs. Ruth Folkes stepped into the breach on a temporary one year contract during the summer holidays. We thank her for her efforts and wish her well in her future career. Her replacement, and new Head of School in Mrs. Galletly's absence, will be Mrs. Sarah Godbold; the School Council took part in the interviews and three out of four of the children are Foulden residents.

Changes often affect standards in schools and with small year groups, a see saw effect is the norm. We have some way to go to scale the heights once again but children's progress this year has been better than national expectations, almost without exception. A recent visit from an Academy Improvement Associate appointed by the Diocese recognised the hard work of the staff and singled out our ethos and Christian distinctive for particular praise; he found the latter outstanding.

Relationships with the church and Rev. Charles Sherlock continue to strengthen; Charles is a Governor and takes assembly in the Church every week; he is an important part of special assemblies such as Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers; we were especially proud

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to take part in the village the Centenary Remembrance Vigil at the Gooderstone War Memorial, laying a wreath of poppies for possibly the first time.

The 'Friends of Gooderstone School' have been very busy and have held several successful events including a Christmas Fete, Mothering Sunday plant stalls, Easter Breakfast and Bunny Drive. The next event is the Quiz Night on Friday 22nd May; all welcome. Fund raising has supported trips including the whole school visit to the Panto at the Theatre Royal, Norwich. We thank them for the enthusiasm and commitment.

The children continue to enjoy a wide range of individual and group successes both inside and outside school; clubs this year have included recorders, guitars, Tae Kwan Do, Street Dance, Sports and Art.

The school website has had a comprehensive overhaul to provide more information and be a means to communicate with parents and all members of the community– the website is: www.gooderstone-school-norfolk.co.uk

Refurbishments to the school this year have included redecoration and new flooring in the mobile, alterations to the toilets to make them suitable for our very young children, ICT equipment, wifi and intruder alarm. The building has been completely kitted out with all the accoutrements required for this age group. We have recently upgraded our main school ICT equipment in line with the requirements of the new National Curriculum which came into force in September 2014.

The 2014 Year 6 leavers' assembly were very polished with the children thoroughly enjoying their productions while at the same time being very respectful of the sad occasion of their leaving. We wish our Year 6 children every success at their respective high schools.

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Events that have happened this year include:

Sports day and area sports
End of year production
Visit to Banham Zoo
Y3/4 Folk Festival
Residential visit to London
Leavers' Service
Friends' Summer Fete
Refurbishment of mobile
Swimming KS2
Multi-sports club
Guitar lessons and recorder club
Art Club
Tae Kwan DO club
Street Dance club
Remembrance Service
Fund raising for Children in Need, Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)
Christmas Production
Christmas Service
Visit to the Panto at the Theatre Royal
Harvest Festival
Remembrance Service and laying of wreath
Puppet assemblies
Holkham Hall assemblies
Cluster cross country championships
Area cross country championships
'Book Week' activities with children and parents
Visit to Swaffham Fire Station
Visit to Harry Potter World
Visit to Church Farm, Stow Bardolph
Friends' 'Mothering Sunday Gifts' event
Friends' Bunny Drive
May Day Celebration with maypole dancing
Inter schools' football
Inter schools' Kwik Cricket
First aid courses