



**Little Missenden Church of England Infant School**  
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March 2024

Dear Parents

Another term is drawing to a close. It's officially Spring but nobody has told the weather! Thank goodness that this year we have the new nursery building. This has enabled the staff and children to have a dedicated space freeing up more room for Reception and giving all of Early Years a decent covered outdoor space. Children now have a much wider range of learning experiences both indoors and outdoors.

The nursery building had been a long time in the planning! We are grateful to the Diocese, Buckinghamshire Early Years and Align/HS2 who contributed funds to enable us to complete it!

Our next big project is raising the funds to refurbish the main playground. Unfortunately, we have had to close the adventure play area due to safety concerns. We are bidding for funds but it's a big ask in the current climate when we need at least £75000! If only money grew on trees!

This year we have 15 children on roll in the nursery. We hope to attract more when our plans to allow children from age 2 to join us are finalised. It is recognised that strong early years provision is vital for a child's development. The children coming through are well prepared and ready for full time school. It's also helps to ensure the longer-term viability of the school when lower birth rates are impacting on school admissions. Core funding is broadly based on pupil numbers. Currently we are 10 pupils below our capacity in the main school, which roughly equates to a loss of income of around £35,000.

The funding situation for all schools is very challenging. We have Mrs Green, our exceptional headteacher, who is highly regarded by Buckinghamshire Schools team and has been using her knowledge and experience to support other local schools. This brings in vital funding. Currently she is interim Headteacher of Lee Common CE Infant School. Her hard work and commitment ensured they achieved a 'Good' Ofsted report last term. To run two schools is very demanding. As governors, we have considered the impact that this has had on our school. We are confident that our children continue to have a high-quality education and they are making expected progress or better at each stage: Our 22/23 outcomes at KS1 put us above local and national levels. We have excellent staff and they have worked tirelessly to support Mrs Green. Without them we would not have been able to undertake this. We are not alone in looking for ways to manage our budgets and indeed respond to the ever-changing education landscape. Collaboration and sharing of resources are undoubtedly ways to help address budget pressures.

I am fortunate to have the support of my fellow governors. They bring a wealth of experience and are committed to ensuring the best outcomes for everyone at Little Missenden School. **We have two vacancies, one parent Governor and another local representative.** Please encourage anyone who might be willing to join us to contact me via the school office.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Regards

Jane Elkins, Chair of Governors

**'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17**  
**friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust**

