Mickleton Primary School



Key skills taught in reception are the foundations of a child's learning



Headteacher Tom Roberts

Based near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, Mickleton Primary is a growing local school that has evolved dramatically since moving into a brand-new building in 2006. Over the past year, its intake has increased by almost 20 per cent, but it is adapting capably and is looking to build on its burgeoning reputation. Tom Roberts became the headteacher in February 2019 and below, he tells *The Parliamentary Review* more about the work his team have put in and the environment they have worked hard to create on site.

At Mickleton Primary school we prepare children to become the people they need to be. Starting at reception, we educate children until the end of year 6, ensuring they are ready for the world ahead.

I have been a part of Mickleton Primary for just over two years and have overseen considerable change since I took over. The relocation of the school in 2006 to a brand-new building lent itself to overall growth, and an extension to the school has further ensured this.

We were founded as a small village school and have been able to grow thanks, by and large, to the support from the county council. In the past 12 months we have grown from 130 pupils to 160. The school has also seen its reception admission increase from 12 to 26 in recent years. We have seen people increasingly want to come to our school, which is always humbling as a headteacher. It is rare to have a one-form entry for village schools, and we are enjoying the benefits that

REPORT CARD
MICKLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Headteacher: Tom Roberts
- Founded in 1513
- Location: near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire
- Type of school: One-form entry primary school
- No. of students: 160
- www.mickletonschool.com



Learning is brought to life through the school's multimedia centre

> "We understand the importance of contextualised learning"

come from not having mixed-age classrooms. The building has greatly benefited people in the village, and we understand how fortunate we have been in having a modern building as an older school.

Selling education

We understand the importance of contextualised learning and see the role of the teacher as a salesperson as well as an educator. There are currently so many different things going on in the lives of our children, and we understand that the old-fashioned method of education is becoming increasingly outdated. We need children to buy in to what they are doing, and to recognise the value of education in their lives.

We have worked hard to invest in our school and have recently been supported by The Richard Porter Trust in installing a multimedia centre. The support has meant that children can engage with technology from a young age and has also lent itself to a different style of education. Our younger children have used the green screen to make a David Attenborough-style documentary, while the older ones have used it to work on an advertisement for a Mickleton-themed chocolate bar. During the official opening our children were able to teach trustees of the charity how to use the screen and recording equipment.

We frequently invite people from a wide range of professions and ask pupils about the kinds of jobs they would like to do. We want to ensure our children know there are a variety



Children record podcasts to celebrate school achievements and discuss world events



The broad and balanced curriculum is supported by external specialist teachers in a wide range of subjects

of jobs out there, and to best prepare them for the range of professions available to them. A clear example of this is one young student who was absolutely astounded to find out that people get paid to make art, following a visit from a professional arts company.

The vice chair of our board of governors, Anthony Pritchard, is also head of GA Storm, a company that performs surveying in Mickleton and the surrounding area. He has also visited our school and shown pupils how to use assorted equipment as part of a project which asks them to consider the future of Mickleton and various ways in which it can be improved. Through providing the children with various technical skills, they have been instilled with a confidence in their own ability.

Growing school

As a growing school, one of the challenges we face is managing the size of our classes. Moving from a half-form to single-form entry comes with its own challenges; both educational and financial. Fortunately, this has been managed effectively and as of September 2020 we are now a one-form entry school with an oversubscribed reception intake for the first time.

All form one and one form all

The last ten months have seen us move towards an increasingly stable place, coming from a point where we had a mere 12 names down for our reception class. Parent support has now improved, and with it their confidence in the education we provide for their children.

We are currently looking towards starting a nursery for children, to extend our provision from the age of three to 11. The current nursery intake is weaker as the years go on, and we believe that an additional 18 months with the children will improve their starting point, and subsequently improve their end point.

We are confident that our positive trajectory will continue in the future and hope that we will keep growing in the coming years.

> “Children engage with technology from a young age”