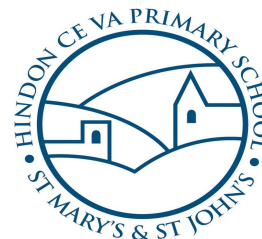


10. Hindon CEVA Primary School St Mary's and St John's



Last year, the National Association of Head Teachers undertook a survey of Britain's small schools. Their report said that:

"Small schools play a vital and irreplaceable role in our education system. With the decline of many local services, these schools have increasingly become the focal point of the communities they serve.

The unique characteristics, ethos and 'family feel' of small schools mean that they are a popular choice for parents, particularly for those with children who have additional needs."

However, the report also raised concerns about the unique and significant challenges their schools still face. These revolve around the continuing squeeze on funding, the bureaucratic burden (small schools must comply with all the policies, statutes and reporting requirements that are a challenge for even the largest schools face).

Some of the report's findings are:

- 47% of respondents from small primary schools are concerned about the possibility of closure of their school.
- 87% of respondents report that the funding their school receives is not adequate to meet the needs of their pupils.
- 56% of respondents have had to reduce the number or hours of their teaching assistants.
- 64% of members surveyed reported having to actively look for opportunities to increase income.
- 56% of respondents in small schools have had to reduce their maintenance budget over the last three years.

Against this gloomy national picture, Hindon School continues to flourish due to our excellent staff, wonderful families and community, and the hard supporting work of both the governors and the Friends of Hindon school. We recognize the concerns raised above, which reflect our own experience, but we are proud to have been described by Ofsted in 2022 as:

"...a happy place where pupils feel valued. They enjoy coming to school. Leaders are determined all will succeed and the Staff have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils enjoy their learning. Staff have an accurate view of pupil's individual needs. Pupils appreciate the opportunities provided for them beyond the classroom and these support them well with their personal development."

School Year 2023/24: The school started the year by welcoming Kit, Ronnie, Aaron, Athena, Imogen, Alexander, Martha, Sophie, Archie, and Lewis into the Robins Class (Reception). We also welcomed Colby, who joined Owl Class.

New Gate and fencing: New safety fencing and gates were installed over the summer holidays and are working well. We open the gates for 15 minutes in the morning to enable children to arrive between 8.30am

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and 8.45am and then again at the end of the day at about 2.55pm, when a member of staff walks the children to the taxis. The play equipment is fenced for safety and can only be accessed by children at playtimes.

Children now keep wellingtons and wet weather gear at school to encourage as much outdoor playtime as possible. The children also enjoy regular Welly Walks across the Downs.

Brownsea Island: Owl Class visited Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour as part of their Geography topic, entitled Living on an Island. The autumn weather was glorious, The children enjoyed the boat trip to the island and were excited to see Red squirrels and to learn about Island life.

PGL Residential: Years 4, 5 and 6 had a wonderful residential trip to PGL in Osmington Bay in October, where they were faced with adventurous challenges such as abseiling, high swing and archery. Year 3 remained at school, but enjoyed 'Hindon PGL' (Parents Get Lost) with Mrs Gray, making the most of our Forest School facilities.

Staff Abseiling Challenge at Alfred's Tower: Members of staff (and some of their partners) braved the Abseiling Challenge at Alfred's Tower, raising £1,686 towards the £40,000 needed to improve a school in Africa. So far, over two such abseiling weekends, the charity has raised £40,814 and can build two fully resourced Primary School classrooms in Gordon's Bay, Western Cape.

In November, the Kingfisher and Woodpecker Classes visited Winchester Science Museum and Planetarium. As Christmas approached, all children loved their Pantomime trip to Salisbury Play. The Robins Class put on a traditional Nativity performance in Hindon Church, whilst the Owls, Kingfishers and Woodpeckers Class Christmas production to a packed house for both afternoon and evening performances at Tisbury Nadder Centre. The Friends of Hindon School hosted a successful Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall.

Spring Term: Years 5 and 6 were became computer geeks for an afternoon technology workshop programming robots to complete movement tasks. This workshop was run by Shaftesbury School STEAM ambassadors. How amazing to enjoy the technical challenge of coding. Robin Class visited Dorset County Museum in Dorchester as part of their learning focus on Long, Long Ago. The children will explore fossil and dinosaur remains found on the Jurassic coast.

Owl Class visited the Rural Life Museum at Glastonbury to learn more about the history of houses and homes. They learnt how clothes were made in the past by taking part in a wool spinning workshop. They also investigated how food was produced and explored how everyday household objects were made and used. Back in class, the Owls also held a Medieval Banquet and dressed in royal clothes as they learnt about the lives of British monarchs. =

Kingfishers and Woodpecker Classes visited the Titanic Museum at Southampton as part of their topic on the Titanic. The children will took part in interactive displays, viewing artifacts recovered from the ship as they learned more about her fateful journey and the lives of the passengers on board.

Music workshops continued for Years 3 and 4 with Mrs Jennings, in preparation for a Cluster School performance at Mere in the summer term. There were Magic Lantern Art Workshops in school for Robin and Woodpecker Classes, and a Cricket Workshop for Years 1 – 6.

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