

# Huish Episcopi Primary School

Headteacher: Tiffany Doughty Davis

North Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9RW

Telephone: 01458 250673

Email: [office@HEPS.ppat365.org](mailto:office@HEPS.ppat365.org)

Website: [www.huishepiscopiprimary.co.uk](http://www.huishepiscopiprimary.co.uk)



Friday 21 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to say a heartfelt thank you for your support this year. Five years in and you would think that I had encountered everything at least once; this year has yet again proven me wrong! It has been another thoroughly enjoyable 12 months.

Whilst many of my colleagues around the country are considering the declining birth rate, we are fortunate that we haven't yet been affected by this, however, I am mindful of this when looking at our future numbers, staffing and provision. We are currently full in several of our classes and year groups, with no ability to expand. Here are our numbers from the last six years:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
161	176	184	194	200 (expected)

We have been ambitious in the site improvement plan over the past few years which is not always easy or straightforward with an older building. It has been my pleasure to have delivered the following renovations, refurbishments and building projects:

Main building and classroom refurbishment (2018)

Media Hub (2019)

Window replacement across the site (2020)

Hall refurbishment (2020)

Cabin build: two new classrooms (2021)

Boiler replacement (2022)

Coronation Room refurbishment (2023)

For 2023-24 the first and main priority will be the library. Fundraising now totals £5,841 which will go part way to the estimated £20,000 which is needed. Some of the books have already been ordered so we are well underway. Additionally, we are taking a closer look at how our buildings and actions impact the environment. Although we have already started work on this, the children will be the driving factor with this element of school development.

I have managed two Ofsted inspections since January 2018. The first came in February 2018 and the second in March 2020. We are currently judged as a 'Good' school. We will next be inspected before July 2025 but cannot be more precise than that.

We are currently undergoing a recruitment and retention crisis which has been the worst I have ever known. This continues to be a challenge for HEPS as we are located in a rural area with fewer staff wishing to travel out to us from the most populated areas of Somerset. We are all hoping that next year is more settled for both pupils and staff.

# HEPS statutory assessment results 2022-23

We are pleased to report the following verified assessment results. All children have worked hard to make excellent progress. Where national and local data is yet to be published for 2023, the 2022 data comparison has been included.

Early Years, Reception, 28 children						
Good Level of Development			Children with a GLD in all areas		Average GLD areas per child (out of 17)	
HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2022)	HEPS	National (2022)	HEPS	National (2022)
75%	64%	65%	75%	63%	16.1	14.1

Phonics Screening Test, Year 1, 20 children		
% of children passing the phonics test (pass 32 out of 40)		
HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2022)
95%	74%	75%

KS1 SAT Tests, Year 2, 31 children						
Subject	Age related expectations			Greater depth		
	HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2022)	HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2022)
Writing	74%	59%	58%	19%	10%	8%
Maths	90%	68%	68%	26%	15%	15%
Reading	77%	66%	67%	35%	19%	18%
Combined reading, writing, maths	68%	54%	53%	16%	7%	6%

Multiplication Test, Year 4, 25 children			
Mean average score out of 25		% of children receiving top score of 25	
HEPS	National (2022)	HEPS	National (2022)
23.1	19.8	50%	27%

KS2 SAT Tests, Year 6, 19 children						
Subject	Age related expectations			Greater depth		
	HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2023)	HEPS	Somerset (2022)	National (2023)
Writing	84%	67%	71%	26%	13%	13%
Maths	90%	66%	73%	32%	16%	23%
Reading	84%	72%	73%	53%	24%	28%
Spelling, punctuation, and grammar	84%	68%	72%	47%	23%	28%
Combined reading, writing, maths	79%	53%	59%	11%	6%	7%

Below national average	At or above national average by up to 10%	Above national average by 11% or more
------------------------	---	---------------------------------------

As you will see from the data above, our children have worked incredibly hard this year. Whilst these attainment results are fantastic, the progress is even more pleasing. Every child has their own targets and we are very happy with the progress they have made.

Whilst this data is impressive, it is complemented by the depth and abundance of additional opportunities our children experience. From the first week of the school year, most children attend educational visits, which are highly valued by both the children and staff. A special thank you to the volunteers who make these trips possible. Clubs are well attended with most of the children signing up for at least one club a week. Opportunities for development through Digital Leaders, Sports Captains and School Council allow children to explore leadership skills. The Interhouse programme, which complements the fixtures calendar, has brought a new element to the school this year with children competing as mixed age teams for the benefit of their house. The whole school writing project resulted in a fantastic celebration of excellent writing and art work. Alongside this, the celebration and poetry assemblies promote the skills of performance and public speaking. We continually assess our offer to ensure it is the best it can be.

We are about to say goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 children. They have been a small but brilliant group of children. Each cohort has its own personality, and whilst they are not the loudest of groups, they have had a quiet confidence about them, striving for excellence in an understated way. They are resilient and have been welcoming when important friends have left and new members have joined them. They have grown into a family of young adults who make us proud with their thoughtful actions and kind words. I wish them well and will enjoy seeing them exhibit the HEPS spirit as they develop in their next schools.

Most of you will have read the newsletter excerpt about Mr Sam Jackson, Chair of Governors, leaving HEPS. He has been supportive but prompting in this role; our success is his success. Thank you to the current (and September) members of the governing body who will continue to ensure the high expectations, ethos and quality of the educational offer.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the HEPS staff team and their brilliance in supporting our children either directly or indirectly. Our site team ensures that we have the best environment possible which reflects the high standards we set in all areas of the school. Our Lunchtime Supervisors, Early Bird and Busy Bee staff ensure our children are welcomed in the morning, eat well at lunchtime, and are looked after at the end of the day with the care and support I would have wished for my own children. Mrs Masters and Mrs Soakell are nicknamed 'the engine room' as they lay the ground for everything that is planned, often supporting in places which are most definitely not on their job description! The dedicated classroom staff consistently model a fantastic work ethic, high standards of professionalism, inspiring and creative learning opportunities, alongside amazing pastoral care and support. Miss Chadbourne, as most of you will know, is an exceptional Teacher, but alongside this she is wise, thoughtful and a ray of sunshine on the stormiest of days. I am so fortunate to work alongside such talented colleagues. Whilst I thank them all for being amazing colleagues, these members of staff are always appreciative of a kind word which means so much more if it comes from a parent or carer.

Lastly, I would like to thank the parents, carers, families and friends of our children. It is our pleasure to contribute to the success of your most precious gifts. I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer with your family and friends.

Kind regards,

Mrs Tiffany Doughty Davis  
Headteacher