



SIR ROBERT HITCHAM SCHOOL

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Head Teacher Mrs Jane Taylor Bed (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Debenham Annual Parish Meeting 23.05.11

Sir Robert Hitcham CEVA Primary School report

There have been a number of changes at the village primary school this year, not least of which being the change of Head Teacher.

Mrs Barbara McElroy retired in July after five years in post and Mrs Jane Taylor took over in January 2011. Mrs Mary Perry was the Acting Head Teacher during the autumn term.

Mrs Taylor had been Head Teacher at Monks Eleigh for three years and had taught in Essex for twenty years prior to that.

Staffing has remained stable with only one Teacher change. Mrs Suzanne Denny left us in July 2010 and was replaced by Mrs Jill Robinson. Mrs Sue Bradley left her role as Teaching Assistant in February and was replaced by Mrs Jane Simpson. There have been two additional Teaching Assistants appointed; Mrs Sue Jones and Mrs Natalie Rockett. Mrs Heather Galley and Mrs Vicky Vollar have both completed their training to become Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

From September 2011 there will be a change to our admissions procedures. All rising 4 year olds will be offered the opportunity of a part-time place for a whole year in our Nursery and all rising 5 year olds will be offered the opportunity of a full-time place for a whole year in our Reception class. This has meant some upgrading of our facilities and building work for this will be taking place during the summer holiday to minimise disruption to the children's learning. The number of places in our Nursery has been reduced to 13 to ensure that the 'Roundabout' pre-school can still offer places to three year olds and to ensure parents can still choose what is right for their child.

Mr Gavin Middleton has reached the final stage of the National Teaching Awards of which we are still awaiting the result.

Last Wednesday the school was assessed for a 'Green Flag Award' in recognition of our environmentally friendly approach to how the children are taught. Mrs Vicky Vollar has been responsible for taking the lead in this area. She has been

responsible for improvements to the school pond area and the development of a vegetable garden both of which are very popular with the children.

A new bike park has also been erected behind the Roundabout pre-school building to encourage the older children to cycle to school.

Our results in the core subjects of English and Maths continue to be good in comparison to National Standards and in light of this we have been informed that OFSTED don't intend to visit us again until the summer of 2012. However, this doesn't mean we are resting on our laurels. Next year we are going to be particularly focusing on maths and so will be calling it 'The Year of Maths'. We will also be incorporating the lead up to the 2012 Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee in our learning.

We are keen to be an integral part of the Debenham Community and welcome local residents who have spare time available to join us as volunteers. We already have a dedicated group of helpers who come into school regularly to listen to readers, help with craft work and support fundraising events but we welcome new friends who can enrich the learning environment for our pupils. If you feel you can help us please get in touch.