

'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'

Our School Vision

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As a proud Church school, we are rooted in love. We aspire to nurture and help our children flourish as respectful, compassionate citizens who seek to positively contribute to our local community and the world beyond. Our school family model our Christian values of RESPECT, COMPASSION, TRUST, FORGIVENESS, ASPIRATION, HOPE and COURAGE.

Our vision links to the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13: 31-32. For seeds to grow, they need solid, firm and strong roots. In this parable, Jesus explains that a mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds, yet when planted in the ground, it grows into one of the largest garden plants, so big, that birds can perch on its branches. From small beginnings, the kingdom of God has grown and spread across the whole earth. From small beginnings, we seek to give our children strong roots that allow them to thrive and flourish, giving them the wings to fly as they seek to experience 'life in all its fullness' as expressed in John 10: 10.

Ofsted (November 2017) stated, 'This continues to be a GOOD school.' At St Bartholomew's C of E School we are passionate about successful learning. Successful learning is built on the foundation of key life skills: collaboration, problem solving, self-management, communication, creative thinking and evaluation. These skills are developed through our rich, broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by Christian values and builds on our children's interests. Our school community strives to develop happy learners, effective teams and engaging learning environments that enable great progress and nurtures young people who are respectful, active world citizens learning to be positive role-models. I feel proud and privileged to be the Head teacher of St Bartholomew's Church School and, on behalf of our whole school community, I would like to warmly welcome you to our school and share a bit more about what makes our school so special.



Mrs G Coward
Headteacher

At St Bartholomew's we have high expectations of everyone in all they do in our school. This is essential in enabling our children to reach high standards in all aspects of the curriculum, personal development and extra-curricular activities. This is underpinned by our Christian ethos built on our Church of England foundations. Our school mission statement reflects the words of the Bible, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10: 10) and from this come our seven Christian values which are rooted in love and thread through every aspect of our school life: Trust, Compassion, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Hope, Respect and Courage. At St Bartholomew's we believe in nurturing every aspect of our school members; academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. This is why we have a strong nurture programme

within our school and an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) trained to further support our learners. If our children feel happy and safe they will be able to learn to their full potential. We have a strong PE and Sports programme with lots of opportunity for sporting events with children from other schools within our CISP learning partnership. We are also developing our inclusive sport opportunities. We are proud of our wonderful school choir who perform all over the town and local community and sometimes further afield, although recently this has been on hold due to COVID. In recent years, we recorded a school CD with all year groups singing and groups playing instruments and usually, each year, our choir perform at 'The Festival of Song' at the Octagon Theatre. Our school offers individual music lessons via Champion Music. We are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for our children to develop their skills and interests further. Examples of these are Choir, Lego club, Recorder club, Science club, Games club, Home-learning club and St BartholoNEWS reporters.

At St Bartholomew's we are proud of our church school status. Our school is supported by our local church, St Bartholomew's, and the diocese of Bath and Wells who work in partnership with us to ensure our school family has the opportunity to experience a relationship with God and a spiritual life in whatever form supports them. We are fortunate to benefit from the leadership, support and challenge of an excellent board of governors, chaired by Miss Cheryl Govier who works for the 'Go Team' at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Our grounds reflect our RSPB bird school status, alongside our Healthy Schools Status which we are working towards re-accreditation. We offer opportunities for our children to experience nature in all its awe and wonder in as many ways as possible. Our Eco-Council take a lead on helping our school nurture the world that we live in. Spirituality is also developed through Mindfulness, literature and the wide range of books we have in our school libraries. Our nutritious and wide choice of school meals are enjoyed not only by those in EYFS and KS1 entitled by the Free Infant School meals, but by those gaining value for money and a great school meal.

Worship is an important daily part of our school life and is based on the Imaginor 'Roots and Shoots' which explores clear themes each fortnight through Bible stories and teaching. Worship is led by teachers, children, clergy and a wide range of visitors from all parts of our community reflected the diversity within it. Usually, family worship is something that our children are excited to lead in school. During COVID, we share our child led services virtually which our families love. During normal times, families worship with us in St Bartholomew's church several times a year and each year group lead an act of worship across the year in school.

We promote British values and democracy and this is reflected in our wonderful teams of children: School council, Online Safety Champions, Eco-council, Forget-Me-Not council, Worship assistants and Sports Council Play leaders. These roles ensure our children have a strong voice in our school which they help to lead. Ofsted (November 2017) described St Bartholomew's as a school where *'good teaching inspires children to work hard and achieve well in both their personal and academic development, consequently they thrive in this nurturing haven'*.

If this feels like the right school for your child, please do contact us and I will be delighted to talk to you and, if it is safe to do so, show you around our wonderful school.

Mrs Gemma Coward
Headteacher