



Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

December 2016

Little Reddings Primary School is rated **GOOD** in all respects by Ofsted



Earlier this term a two day Ofsted inspection took place at Little Reddings School and we are delighted to report that for every aspect of the school the team of three experienced inspectors rated the provision as GOOD. This is a huge testament to the hard work of the Headteacher Miss Simmonds, her leadership team and the wider staff, as well as the fantastic support of all parents, pupils, governors and Trustees who have been part of the exciting journey of school improvement over the last two years.

Taking over a school that was inadequate in key areas of leadership and management and with an overall judgement of Requires Improvement was no easy thing to do. To then completely turn the school around in such a relatively short space of time and gain such recognition and praise in the recently published report is a real measure of the hard work and dedication that Miss Simmonds and so many other staff have demonstrated. Do enjoy reading some of the superb quotes from the excellent report highlighted below.

'The Headteacher provides strong, committed leadership that is focused on providing a high standard of education for all pupils. As a result, the school is *rapidly improving*.'

OFSTED November 2016



'The Headteacher is well supported by a team of Assistant Headteachers and the governing body. *Together* they have created a *learning environment* and culture that promotes *good behaviour, positive attitudes* towards learning and *celebrates success*. Staff share these *high expectations* and are *proud* to work in the school. Staff *morale is high*.'


OFSTED November 2016

'Pupils enjoy coming to school and describe the school as a happy place where pupils help one another, teachers are kind and 'relationships are good between teachers and pupils'.

OFSTED November 2016



We are immensely proud of what you have all achieved and look forward to everyone continuing to work together to move the school on and build on the very firm foundations that have now been put in place to create the wonderful learning community at the school.



'The early years is well led. The leader regularly monitors the quality of teaching, learning and children's progress. As a result, she has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses and what she needs to do to further improve provision.'

'Children quickly settle into both Nursery and Reception. Parents are involved in the transition arrangements. Relationships with parents are good. At the start of the school day parents have the opportunity to spend time with their child looking at their work, reading with them or helping them with learning activities. Parents appreciate having this time with their children.'

'Children are provided with interesting activities so they quickly become involved in their learning. Children are good at cooperating with one another on tasks such as building structures and writing lists. Children enjoy sharing their learning and are proud of their achievements. Staff encourage the children to be confident about their learning. Interactions between staff and children are positive.'

'Staff use questioning well to extend children's learning and vocabulary. Teaching overall is good. It is very strong in the Nursery. Children are making good progress in all areas of learning. They benefit from a well-equipped outside area that gives them the opportunity to develop physical skills.'

'Assessment is detailed and rigorous and used well to identify the next steps in the child's learning. Children learn in a safe and stimulating learning environment.'

OFSTED November 2016



'Pupils read well. The most able readers read confidently and fluently and were able to summarise their reading and discuss the plot and characters. The pupils spoke with enthusiasm about book choices and their love of reading.'

OFSTED November 2016

'The school provides a comprehensive range of after-school and lunchtime activities. Pupils and parents are highly appreciative of this provision. Pupils are well behaved around the school and in lessons. Pupils enjoy school and their attitudes to learning are positive. Pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum. They study a range of interesting topics that contribute well to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'

OFSTED November 2016

The Journey from Primary to Secondary School

The curriculum and the pace and depth of learning are as important to us during primary to secondary transition as the pastoral care. It is this which sets us apart from many schools and the reason why Bushey Meads were asked to speak last term at national conferences in Manchester and London to share our leading practice in the area of KS2 – 3 transition.

Our first half term of learning is key to this programme, with activities in subject areas picking up from where primary schools' left off and rapidly progressing students up to the next level. We have themed learning as a part of this scheme, with many subjects linking with performing and visual arts to add an exciting and motivating performance aspect to enhance and complement the learning.



Year 7's first half term of learning at BMS culminated in a curriculum celebration evening, so well attended by parents and carers that we needed two shows during the evening to accommodate everyone.

When parents first arrived in the modern restaurant area they were greeted with fascinating displays from all subjects. While enjoying refreshments, parents were able to evaluate the quality of the work themselves and talk to Year 7 students who were on hand to answer queries.

In the picture below, we see Ella from Little Reddings with two of her new friends stationed at the humanities table.



Parents then made their way to the theatre-style seats in the hall, which they had booked online, to watch a performance presentation of students' work. Presentations ranged from all subject areas, including dance, technology, gymnastics, humanities, drama, science and English.

In the next picture we see George from Little Reddings presenting mathematical sequences in the form of dance, while another former Little Reddings student, Edward, explains it all at the lectern.



Perhaps the highlight of the evening was provided by the music and MFL departments, who worked together to produce songs in Spanish and French, all sung to the wonderful sound of an enormous Year 7 orchestra. The choir and orchestra comprised almost all 200 Year 7 students, including, of course, the many students who have transferred from Little Reddings. Two performances made it a late evening for students, however none of them found trouble jumping out of bed the next day. The reason being was that all 200 students were heading off to Kidzania in London for a brilliant and well-deserved rewards trip to set them up for their half term break.

BSJT Welcome Highwood Primary School

As an outward facing Trust and one that is very much committed to the provision of high quality education for all young people in the local area, it was a privilege to be able to help out another local school at the end of the summer term 2016.

Following extensive flood damage at Highwood Primary School we were delighted to be able to respond to a request from Mrs Allen the Headteacher of Highwood Primary and welcome her staff and students to Bushey Meads School.

With our Year 11 and 13 students having completed their all-important public examinations and enjoying their long summer break, we were able to comfortably accommodate 240 of



their lovely students for the last 3 weeks of term. They were all extremely well behaved, polite and very grateful to all the staff and students here at Bushey Meads. Pictured here enjoying our extensive outdoor space, they certainly enjoyed the 'secondary school experience' and, for the Year 6 students from Highwood coming to BMS in September, it gave them an early insight into our wonderful school.

Children's University - Celebrating Success at Little Reddings



It was one of the highlights of my year to be invited to attend and enjoy a fabulous Children's University Celebration Event at Watford Coliseum last summer term and join with all the hard working staff, pupils and parents in recognising the amazing contributions

and talents made during the year by so many of the LRS pupils on stage that afternoon. All of them had taken part in the extensive extended curricular activities on offer throughout the academic year and had earned enough credits to graduate on the regionally accredited scheme.

I was also most impressed by the speeches given by a number of the pupil leaders including Head Boy Jack Law. In the recent Ofsted report it was no surprise that the inspectors commented specifically about the Children's University and stated that.....

'The school provides an extensive range of before - and after-school activities as well as lunchtime clubs. These clubs are linked to the local South Hertfordshire Children's University, are very well attended, and pupils value the variety of activities. Parents also commented positively about these activities.'

OFSTED November 2016

I would like to congratulate all the pupils for their achievements and thank the staff involved in making the activities and the event itself such a success.

Mr Turner Executive Principal

IT Update Across the BSJT

The IT Technician Team at Bushey Meads School is now into its first full year of a new service level agreement with Little Reddings School. Three hours of IT support is provided each morning to ensure Little Reddings' computers get off to a bug-free day.

Tim Huttleston is the named technician specialising in LRS systems, having been promoted this year, but our IT Manager Jon Olewnik, and the rest of the team, are always available for emergencies or longer installation work.

We now boast a full strength IT team, having recently recruited two new members of the team, following a year searching for candidates of the right, high calibre.

Norbert Kass has taken up the role of Junior IT Technician, moving to us after completing his apprenticeship at Bang and Olufsen, and George Furr is an IT and Music Technology graduate who has already enhanced our team with his specialist knowledge.

Tim Huttleston
Senior IT Technician



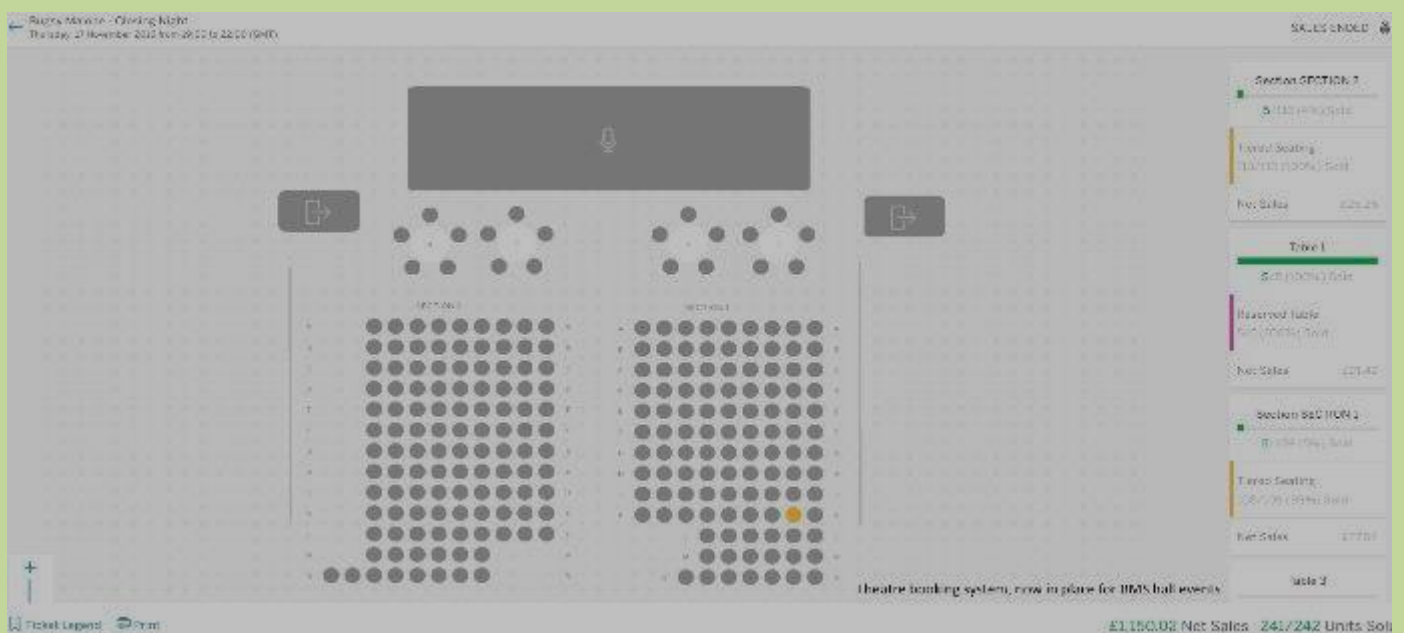
Norbert Kass
Junior IT Technician

George Furr
IT/AV Technician



In terms of new IT systems, at Bushey Meads our visitor management has been upgraded to a new electronic system. Visitors can sign in on a touch screen and their badge is printed via a specialist printer. When ready to leave, visitors use the same touch screen to sign out. School Receptionist Mrs Nealon reports that it was fantastic from day one. An identical system is now on its way to Little Reddings and should be up and running later in the year.

The Bushey Meads fabulous theatre-style hall now has a modern theatre-standard seat booking system to match. For our recent school production of Bugsy Malone the audience were able to book the seats they wanted, on the night they wanted, from the comfort of their own home, paying online as well. From the picture below we see only one seat remaining from the spectacular, and rather emotional, closing night. Of course many in the audience had, and some still have, children attending Little Reddings.



IT Update Continued....

Since September Bushey Meads' Parent Consultation Evenings have been successfully managed via our new online booking system. This system allows parents and carers to choose their time-slots and prepare better for the evening. Utilising an additional module to the on-line payment system that BMS parents use for the payment of meals, trips and events means that parents benefit from only having



the one unified password and entry screen.

In terms of new hardware, new interactive flat panels (IFPs) have been installed in the Little Reddings classrooms of Ms Barnett and Ms Boughton, bringing the impact of consistently sharp focus and crisp, bright images to lessons. At Bushey Meads too, IFPs have been installed into the new science classrooms and elsewhere.



Last year value-added results in our Sixth Form were matched by just one other school in the whole South-West Hertfordshire region, with the high standard of students' study facilities helping us achieve this. Determined to maintain our phenomenal rise, we have invested in another 25 chromebooks and laptops to

further enhance provision for the rapidly increasing number of students who naturally want to study here at BMS at Post 16. With new projects being readied, including an all-new website and a new self-service electronic book-lending system at BMS and a new visitor management system and new docking stations in all classrooms at LRS, there should be plenty to report on in the next BSJT Newsletter.

BSJT Site Update

The two school sites across the Trust continue to develop and on a weekly basis are becoming even more attractive and purposeful environments for learning. What is up on the walls in both schools has a major impact in establishing a learning culture and exciting classrooms, inspirational displays of student achievements and celebration of success are now the norm. In addition major building works on both sites are planned and are taking place.

At Bushey Meads all the windows are being replaced with new smart double glazing which is improving heating efficiencies across the school. These are being complimented by smart wall panels – a programme of works due to be completed by February 2017.

Phase 1 of the major expansion project is now completed with a brand new car park at the rear of the school, two new Science labs and a lovely new English classroom in F Block.

We are currently finalising the Phase 2 works, which involve extending various blocks and giving additional areas to art, PE, music, English and the modern languages departments as well as an extension to the newly refurbished Sixth Form Study Centre.



Images of the brand new Car Park at BMS



At Little Reddings we are currently working hard to re-submit a bid for £745, 000 to the Government's Central Improvement Fund to replace windows and cladding across the school site. The result of the bid will be known at the end of March 2016. In addition the Nursery toilets have now been upgraded and a number of blinds have been replaced in various locations to a value of approximately £5,000.

“The online booking system for events at Bushey Meads is fantastic – being able to choose your own seats for, and not worry about the rush to sit on the front row is just great.”

Year 10 Parent

BSJT Site Update continued



Last term the BSJT Governors' Finance and Resources Committee supported the decision to refurbish the hub of the Bushey St James Trust. Here the efficient and hardworking team lead on all matters related to the often complex financial and human resource issues within the Trust. The staff now have an office environment that is fit for purpose and one that has helped increase efficiency at the heart of our very busy organisation. Light and airy glass walls, floor to ceiling storage, a corporate design and smart business-style furniture all make for a great place to work.



New Look Sixth Form Entrance



Student Leadership Room

New Sixth Form Study Centre

With the light oak doors and stunning glass walls, the new entrance to the Sixth Form Centre sets a very professional business-style tone to the newly refurbished Sixth Form Study Centre at BMS.

The superbly renovated Silent Study Room now boasts a large conference-style table and is fully kitted out with the latest smart chrome books. The Sixth Form Student Leadership Team also now have their very own leadership team meeting room which they can use to plan the next round of Student Parliament meetings and events.



Bushey St James Trust is pleased to announce two new additions to our HR and Finance team!

Anne Seabrook – HR and Finance Assistant:

Mrs Seabrook joins us on a part-time basis from Rickmansworth School where she carried out the same role. She joins our HR and Finance team and will be assisting them across the two areas. She is very much a family orientated person, and enjoys walking in her spare time. Walks have included El Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain and she has also climbed the 'Pulpit Rock' in Norway. Anne comes with a depth of Human Resource knowledge and experience that lends itself to the continued growth and improvement of the Trust.



Koulla Fisher – HR Assistant:

Also joining the team is Mrs Fisher, who started working at Bushey Meads School in November 2003 as a Clerical Assistant and then in April 2006 took on the challenge of Exams Officer. Mrs Fisher demonstrates exemplary organisation skills, an eye for detail and displays a calm and considered approach. We're excited to welcome both Mrs Seabrook and Mrs Fisher and look forward to the expertise they will be bringing to our team.



Also meet the two new Staff appointed to Work in the IT Team



Norbert Kass – IT Technician:

Mr Kass went to college to study IT and then secured himself an apprenticeship with Bang and Olufsen as a sales technician. He has moved to work in the IT Team across the BSJT in order to widen his experience in IT. Hobbies include cycling and football. When asked how he has settled in, his reply was that everyone is 'super nice' – what a compliment to us all!

"We are delighted to be able to continue to recruit the highest calibre of staff to come and work in our exciting and vibrant multi academy Trust."

Sam Russell Chair of the BSJT

George Furr – IT and AV Technician:

Mr Furr studied music technology at Anglia Ruskin University and worked in the Watford Football Club shop at weekends and during the holiday breaks during his time at uni. This position within the IT Team at the BSJT is his first step on the ladder for his career. Hobbies and interests include photography, so he is sure to find himself helping out with photography assignments here at BMS for the weekly school newsletters! He also plays guitar and is a member of a band who play at various gigs in the Watford and Stevenage areas. Is the Christmas Concert staff band at BMS in need of a guitarist I wonder?



All the new staff appointed this term have really helped to strengthen the core support networks within the Trust. They have also provided more capacity to ensure that recruitment of superb staff to both schools continues to be successful and that the right infrastructure continues to be put in place to enable all students in both school settings to achieve their true potential.

Bugsy Malone at Bushey Meads School

On Wednesday 16th November approximately 150 children from local primary schools, including Little Reddings as part of our Trust, came to watch the matinee performance of Bushey Meads' whole school show, Bugsy Malone. The students from Years 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed the performance with the shaving foam 'pies' being particularly amusing. Some of the Bushey Meads students participating in the production remember coming to visit previous productions which inspired them to get involved themselves.



Student Quotes

"The songs were really good, I enjoyed the show."

"I really enjoyed coming to visit today and seeing the show."

"I thought the show was really fun and messy!"



Sharing Best Practice across the South East Region

Following a presentation I gave on behalf of the Bushey St James Trust at a National Capita Curriculum Conference in London last month, it was a privilege to welcome experienced school leader, Ofsted Inspector and the London Borough of Lewisham's Senior Secondary School Improvement Advisor Jackie Jones to the Bushey St James Trust earlier this month. She came to find out more about our nationally acclaimed work in the area of Key Stage 2 – 3 Transition.

The day started with her spending time with Senior Assistant Headteacher Mr Fisher and Assistant Headteacher Mrs Wright who works on the leadership teams at both Bushey Meads and Little Reddings Primary School. Jackie thoroughly

enjoyed an excellent presentation from Mr Fisher and met with key staff and students at Bushey Meads. After a tour of Bushey Meads School's rapidly developing school site, the day ended with her visiting Little Reddings Primary School and being given a guided tour by Head Boy Max and Head Girl Mia.



Sharing Best Practice across the South East Region

Max and Mia were superb ambassadors for their school, and indeed the Trust. They answered loads of questions about their own aspirations, the key marking and feedback agenda in the school and the hugely positive culture for learning that is so well embedded in all classrooms throughout the school.

Pictured here, Mia is explaining to Jackie the 'tickled pink and green for growth' marking strategy adopted by Little Reddings School which feeds so well into the 'green pen marking' and 'purple pen of progress' policy used at Bushey Meads.



Jackie found her time at the Bushey St James Trust quite inspirational. She took back loads of ideas which she said she was going to use in the London Borough of Lewisham to improve the learning journey from Year 6 to 7 and the whole area of transition from primary to secondary school. It was proud day for the Bushey St James Trust and it reminded me how wonderful our students are and how much exemplary practice exists across our two fabulous schools.

Mr Turner
Executive Principal

On Monday morning this was the thank you email from Jackie that came into my inbox.....

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for hosting my visit on Friday. It was really inspiring to hear what you do to make the Year 7 pupils feel so at home so quickly. I realise it starts early on and that this is a huge commitment from all your staff and students. Please can you thank everyone involved in my visit, Mr Fisher Mrs Wright and the Pastoral Team, but especially all the students I met both at Bushey Meads and Little Reddings. They are pupils any school would be so proud of. I will be sharing what I learnt with my transition working group and, hopefully, spreading this good practice to the schools in Lewisham.

Kind regards.

Jackie Jones

Service Manager for School Improvement and Intervention
Directorate of Children and Young People

English Collaborations across the Bushey St James Trust

Following on from last year's successes, the KS2-3 transition work between Bushey Meads School and Little Reddings Primary School has moved into its second year of collaboration. In order to continue preparing students for the best possible outcomes, a group of highly able Year 6 students are now receiving booster English lessons that focus on developing their writing skills to a KS3 standard. This work will be included in the students' writing portfolios that are assessed as part of the writing component of the SAT assessments.

Bushey Meads School is also excited to have been selected to collaborate with Herts for Learning (a local school



Miss Farook

Lead Practitioner KS2 -3 English

improvement provider) on a one-year project that aims to support 62 Year 7 students' writing skills. Upon completion of the project, we expect students to have honed the skills they began developing in primary school and to have greater confidence when approaching writing tasks as they begin Year 8.

Another aspect of KS2-3 transition that is being developed is strengthening the collaboration between our KS2 and KS3 English

teachers. This half term, the English Faculty will be visiting a range of Y5 and Y6 lessons in order to identify the successes of our KS2 team when teaching literacy. These visits will inform our secondary English teachers and help to ensure that the KS3 curriculum is as robust and challenging as possible, developing on from the good work of our KS2 colleagues.

In the new year, Bushey Meads English Faculty look forward to welcoming the KS2 team into their lessons in order for our primary colleagues to gain further insight into the KS3 and KS4 curriculum.

Sixth Form Community Service Programme

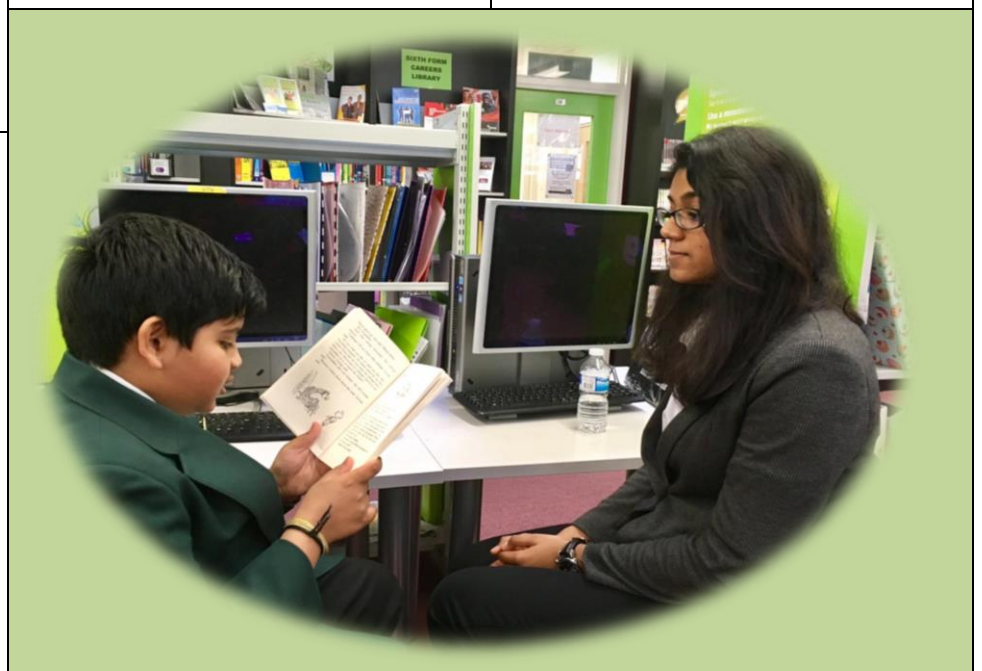
It is always pleasing to see our Sixth Formers taking part in our Community Service Programme here at Bushey Meads School. So many of our Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils are benefiting enormously from the support they are receiving in lessons with Sixth Form students.

Mr Back, our LRC Manager has spoken very highly of the Sixth Form mentors supporting him with literacy lessons and how the integrated picture of learning,



throughout the entire school, has had an enormous impact on the number of Key stage 3 and 4 pupils. Pupils are sharing their book reviews and regularly using the 'Word of the Week' in both classwork and home learning tasks.

Sixth Form students arrange with teachers to attend a lesson and assist them every week for an hour. Every participant has a Community Service booklet which is signed by the teacher. Many of our Sixth formers attend the reading scheme at Little Reddings School as part of the Community Service Programme. The students visit the primary school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings as well as Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.



Sixth Form Community Service Programme continued.

The Community Service Programme greatly enhances the prospects of all those taking part; particularly when applying for future University or employment placements. It provides sound evidence of extra-curricular activity for those involved, showing that they are prepared to go the extra mile for the benefit of the wider school community.

Mrs Timotheou
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Executive Principal of the Trust Jeremy Turner writes:

At the end of another busy term it is really encouraging to look back and see just how much the staff and students across the



Bushey St James have achieved. Everyone who has visited Little Reddings Primary School this term has commented on the fantastically positive learning culture that is now completely embedded within the school. The superb new staff appointed in September have certainly contributed to this, along with all the dedicated and committed staff who have been here over the past few years on the school's exciting journey of rapid improvement.

In my role overseeing the Trust I have seen first-hand how hard Miss Simmonds and all her staff have worked and I am absolutely delighted with the recent recognition from Ofsted – recognition that Little Reddings Primary School is now a thoroughly good school.

The report clearly recognises the excellent leadership of Miss Simmonds and the massive impact she has had over the last two years to turn around the school – now making it a vibrant, cared for, learning community and one that ensures that all the pupils achieve their true potential. Praise also goes to the pupils themselves, the parents and carers and the hardworking Governors who were all recognised for their major contributions throughout the glowing Ofsted report.

As always it is very exciting to see the continued collaborations being strengthened and developed across the two schools, all of which are really benefiting the students and their progress from Key Stage 2 – 3. A huge thank you goes to all the staff and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good and well deserved rest!

Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School Carly Simmonds Writes:

What a year for Little Reddings!

We began the year with 12 new members of staff and were instantly amazed at the enthusiasm, dedication and teamwork shown. September saw the start of a new phase of the LRS journey and we were ready for Ofsted when they arrived. The children, staff, families and

governors have made such a huge impact in just a few months that we got our deserved 'good' grading. I'm incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school and to work with such inspirational people. It's a real honour to have my name attached to the school and to have been part of this journey for two and a half years now. We are all looking forward to the next stage of our journey and to continued improvements and progress. As a Year 6 pupil told me recently,

"Little Reddings Primary School is now a thoroughly good school."



"Everyone who has visited Little Reddings Primary School this term has commented on the fantastically positive learning culture that is now completely embedded within the school."



"This is the best school ever!"

Spotlight on Mr Wells...

There are many reasons why I consider myself lucky. As well as being in the privileged position of working with children, I am also lucky enough to experience my fondest memories of early school life on a daily basis.



As soon as the fanatical footsteps of the youngest of our children are heard, excited and eager for a day of adventure and discovery, I often find myself in 1982! When I eventually regain my sense of time; I am comforted by the fact that although over 35 years has passed, the same safe, stimulating, exciting, rich and homely nature of our school still exists.

The 'soul' can be felt throughout the whole of the school, from nursery to Year 6, with the children at the very heart of everything. Although I now spend my time learning with the Year 5's as a class teacher (in the same classroom I studied in, in 1986) I still feel the same excitement and sense of belonging to be a part of the school as I did all those years ago. Regular visits to BMS with KS2 also allow me to relive the awe and wonder that the enthusiastic, engaging and hardworking teachers provide

both pastorally and within their specialised subjects. Yes, I am also very proud to be a former Bushey Meads pupil! It fills me with confidence and pride to see so many of our primary school children, following the same journey, carrying their confidence and aspirations from Little Reddings; taking with them a love for learning, ambition and belief that they can make their own dreams come true.

Mr Wells
Year 5 Teacher at LRS

Spotlight on Miss Foster...

Miss Foster is a year 6 TA at LRS and she used to attend BMS. Here's what she has to say about the two schools...

Bushey Meads is a very distant memory for me. I attended there in the late 1980s and had the good fortune to be taught by some amazing teachers, some of whom had been there years earlier and had even taught my mum! Move on twenty six years and it is time to start thinking about a secondary school for my son. Having started working at LRS I have seen the close ties between the two schools and have been very impressed. We went to the BMS open evening and were won over by Mr Turner's speech; any worries that I had about my son, transferring to a bigger school, disappeared as I felt the warmth and love within the school. I actually feel that this warmth and love is present throughout



the Bushey St James Trust, from the youngest children in Nursery up through all the years and is felt by children and adults alike. I love my job as a Year 6 Teaching Assistant at LRS and am hoping that, come September, my son too will be a part of this fantastic partnership.

Miss Foster
Teaching Assistant at LRS

*"The 'soul' can be felt throughout the whole of Little Reddings Primary School, from nursery to Year 6, with the children at the **very heart** of everything."*

*"I actually feel that this warmth and love is present **throughout the Bushey St James Trust**, from the youngest children in Nursery up through all the years and is felt by children and adults alike."*

What A Privileged Position To Be In!

Mrs Lauren Wright Assistant Headteacher across the Bushey St James Trust writes.....I have had the pleasure this term of being involved in teaching at both Bushey Meads School and Little Reddings School. At LRS I teach the Year 6 class at the beginning of the week, then resume my timetable at BMS at the end of the week. This has enabled me to have an amazing and unusual opportunity to teach across Key Stages 2 and 3. Most teachers opt to teach either at primary or secondary level; I am lucky enough to get to do both! Next year I will get to greet many of the Year 6s who choose to attend BMS and I will have already forged good relationships with them, enabling them to feel less tentative about their first day at school.

I attend both senior leadership team meetings and have an

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Wright continues....

insight in to how closely these two schools are linked. In my eyes, I am a part of the same school that starts in nursery and finishes in Year 13. I hope that, as we further encourage our staff to work across both schools within our wonderful Multi Academy Trust, they will feel this too.



Being part of the Trust is extremely exciting. There are lots of incredible projects that are enriching the lives of our children at both BMS and LRS. Our Sixth Form students are busily creating Santa's Grotto for the primary students and I am overwhelmed by the generosity of their time.

*"There are lots of incredible projects that are **enriching the lives of our children** at both Bushey Meads School and Little Reddings Primary School."*

LRS have welcomed the English department in to their lessons, enabling staff at BMS to see what great work is being achieved by our Year 6 students. This then informs how the staff at BMS pitch their work at the beginning of Year 7.

A dance club is currently being hosted at BMS by our Head of Dance, Miss Rowden and students in Year 5 and 6 are attending this on a weekly basis. Many of the students at LRS attended the 'More Able' evening at BMS where they had their work showcased and received some study advice.

There are an abundance of projects in the pipeline and I am so privileged to be a part of it all!

**Lauren Wright
Assistant Headteacher
Across the BSJT**

BMS Students Perform Shakespeare

Bushey Meads' students perform William's Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.....

For the second year running Bushey Meads Theatre Company has performed its work to an audience of enthusiastic primary school students. Last July's performance of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream provided the audience with many laughs and demonstrated a range of art forms.



The storyline was accompanied by a string orchestra (who also happened to play the mechanicals within the play) and singing and dancing fairies. Several of the performers actually remember performing with Bushey Meads students when they attended Little Reddings. Sam (Peaseblossom) and Marie (Puck) had already made an impression as performers before they arrived in year 7. Now in year 10, these students still continue to have a devotion to performing and have taken advantage of every opportunity Bushey Meads has to offer.



Head of Music at Bushey Meads and Music Coordinator for the BSJT Sarah Brown writes:

This term at Little Reddings I have been fortunate enough to deliver the Key Stage 1 music assembly as well as the Key Stage 2 music assembly. At harvest, our favourite song was Paintbox and we very much enjoyed singing about fluffy cauliflowers and sleeping broad beans. Another favourite for Key Stage 1 is I Just Can't Wait To Be King from the hit musical The Lion King. We have been working hard on our lion cub roars! In Key Stage 2 the students have been preparing for their carol service learning a variety of Christmas themed songs and traditional carols.

The newly established violin group has also been learning a few Christmas numbers despite being only beginners. Our very capable Year 12 student at Bushey Meads School, Kajal Dodhia, is leading the group as part of her many contributions to the school community. She is currently creating an arrangement of Jingle Bells especially for the ensemble.

This week a group of musicians featured in our Christmas Concert at Bushey Meads visited Little Reddings to showcase some of the excellent work of our older and more experienced students. There was Christmas cheer all round with the younger students feeling inspired and the older students really enjoying the opportunity to perform for all of the budding musicians in the audience.

Chair of the Trust Sam Russell writes:

As we move into the Christmas period and the end of the year, we can reflect on a busy and exciting twelve months that have just passed.

At Bushey Meads, the school has continued its strong upward trend in results under the leadership of Mr Turner and his team. We have seen new staff join across the school. When combined with the ongoing commitment of our more longstanding staff, the result is a dedicated team who are making a huge difference for the students across the school.

Part of the attraction of working within the Bushey St James Trust is the opportunity to share best practice between our two schools. This year, we have built strong links between Key Stages 2 and 3, ensuring that there is good coordination between primary and secondary learning. This is a key Ofsted focus, as too many secondary schools spend Key Stage 3 teaching material already learnt at Key Stage 2 – something we are able to avoid. Since September, we have embedded this good practice within the leadership at both schools through our fantastic Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Wright, who works at both schools within her role.

And last but not least, two years to the week since their previous inspection, Ofsted returned in November to re-inspect Little Reddings. I am very pleased to inform you that the school achieved a 'Good' rating. This is a stunning testament to the hard work of Miss Simmonds and her team of brilliant teaching and support staff.

I'm very proud of what our schools achieve for all of the children within the Bushey St James Trust and 2017 looks like being another exciting year for everyone involved.

From all of the Trustees and Governors, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sam Russell
Chair of the Bushey St James Trust



*On behalf of all the
Trustees, Governors and staff
across the
Bushey St James Trust
we would like to wish you all a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

