

The 2016/17 academic year has been a very busy one at St Andrew's Primary School. The children continue to have the Christian values of the school at the heart of their learning. Each term a different Christian value is emphasised, and I have seen some beautiful classroom displays showing what these mean to each child, what they have learnt and how these values are being embedded in their everyday lives. The values this academic year are thankfulness, trust, perseverance, service, truthfulness and justice.

This has also been portrayed by the presence of a new banner in the school, based on the roots and shoots collective worship philosophy. The children are preparing the fruits to add to it, displaying their names and the school's Christian values. As well as regular collective worship, the Christian ethos of the school is embedded by the teaching of RE based on the Understanding Christianity curriculum resource.

St Andrew's school continues to have close links to the church, with services on the major Christian festivals. We are also lucky to have Reverend Chris Crocker from Cromhall chapel join us on the Governing Board. He has been very generous in helping deliver the regular collective worship that the children attend during a weekly assembly. In addition, the chapel has kindly secured funding for iSingPop to visit us. This is a primary school singing and recording project enabling children to perform and record uplifting songs based on Christian values.

This year, the Governing body has developed an Ethos committee to ensure the Christian values of the school are integral to the teaching and learning of children. We have established the terms of reference for this committee, and are meeting regularly to monitor the school's activities and the impact of them. We will shortly be undertaking an inspection of the school, including pupil voice, book look and observation of an RE lesson to ensure all our aims are being met. We are also taking steps to develop a spiritual reflective garden for the children to utilise.

The Ethos committee have also arranged for all reception children starting at St Andrews to be given a children's bible to keep. Recently I took the Year 6 children to Gloucestershire Cathedral for a leaver's service, an emotional and rewarding service with bible readings, inspirational Christian songs and a sermon from the Bishop of Gloucester.

All in all, an eventful and busy year, with some very exciting and positive steps to ensure St Andrew's continues to provide high quality educational opportunities for all children within the community of a church school.

Angela Kerr

Foundation Governor.

