**Report for Meeting of St Mary’s PCC on Monday 7th February 2022**

Ms Neale and her staff have been relentless in their work during the difficult circumstances forced on everyone by the pandemic. Teaching children virtually, while at home, has been seen as a very last resort, for example when it has been impossible to staff or supervise safely. While teaching and learning time has inevitably been lost, and plans put in place to ‘catch up’, senior leaders have also been concerned about the well-being of the school community. Children have shown signs of anxiety: An anxious child cannot devote energy to learning. Staff have shown signs of fatigue caused by prolonged uncertainty, increased workload, and their constant striving to keep children safe and happy. The impact covid has had cannot be overstated.

Governors are extremely proud of the resilience shown by all staff, particularly senior leaders who have navigated everyone through the last 2 years, often at a cost to their own work-life balance. The school’s Christian ethos with its values of Nurture, Serve, Grow, and its vision based on St. John’s Gospel 10:10. has been a mainstay for the school.

Tysoe school has an ethos of reflective practise. Children are invited to be involved in decision making through school councils. An in-school survey has been carried out in two classes, enabling children to express their views on Collective Worship (CW): Children showed an appreciation of CW as a valuable time in their school day, and gave suggestions as to how they thought it could be developed. Here are a few of their comments:

* CW outside was suggested by more than one child.
* Children appreciated having designated areas for quiet reflection and wanted to develop these.
* Prayer boxes were important to children and one comment showed real sensitivity, by acknowledging that some prayers were for saying out loud and others were private.
* Several children expressed a wish to take part in leading worship by saying the prayers and reading what one child called ‘important messages.’
* Children enjoyed acting out Bible stories.
* Having parents and family join in worship was also mentioned as being something they would like to be able to do again.

Rev Heighton has been involved both in supporting this group and building informal relationships with children so that they can share ideas and anxieties and begin to recognise that church is there for them. He visits school at least once a week which is a valuable support for both children and staff

A group of children have attended ‘The National Younger Leadership Group’, an initiative launched by the Archbishop of York, where the children were asked about the role of the Church for younger people. My own belief is that this is important work if churches are to survive. This group of children will be able to make a big contribution to planning for worship in school and perhaps even in church?

Tysoe School is fully committed to its role as a church school. Ms Neale is involved in Coventry Diocese Projects which explore the Christian distinctiveness of their schools. One of these is ‘REsearch: Christian Worldviews and Advocacy Project’. In this way the school not only keeps up to date with the latest Diocesan research, but also takes part in shaping it.

If the PCC would like to consider ways to work more closely with school, such programmes as ‘Open the Book’ are worth considering and would be appreciated.

The continued interest, support and prayers of the PCC are very important.

Jackie Bell. Foundation Governor. 4th Feb. 2022