**Little Compton Parish Council Meeting – 19th May 2025**

Acorns Primary School remains in a very strong position following a successful year in 2023 – 2024. We continue to work collaboratively within the Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust and this year, have welcomed a fifth school to the Trust. Wilmcote C of E are now working with Acorns, Shipston, Brailes and Kineton and it has been a pleasure to work with staff to develop their curriculum and provision in line with our Trust policies and procedures. Numbers on roll at Acorns are strong, with 102 children currently attending from Nursery to Year 6. As with last year, we are oversubscribed for the Reception September 2025 intake and have a waiting list.

Two of our focus areas this year have been to support children’s development in play and social skills, as well as developing independence and the values to be a great citizen. To meet these strategic development goals, we introduced a multi-year outdoor play programme: OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) and Junior Duke. Through the OPAL programme, we have a mentor who supports school with development plans and new ideas for outdoor play provision; we have already hugely improved playtimes through extending our play spaces across all outdoor areas at school and have a super grounds development plan which we are looking to implement over the coming months. The Junior Duke scheme is a ten-level award aimed at increasing children’s independence, confidence and resilience by giving them a non-academic platform on which to feel success and achievement. Activities are completed at home and children then bring in their journals to share with staff and children in school. It has been a real success so far and very kindly funded by the PTA.

Academic results across the school remain strong at the end of Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Our end of year data for 2024 showed 100% of Y6 children achieving the expected standard or above in reading, grammar and writing and 87% in maths. Our reception children achieving a good level of development and the Y1 phonics screening assessments were also above the national percentage, at 83% and 85% respectively.

There is a strong sense of collegiate working amongst the Leadership Team. This year, the Headteachers, SENDCo and CEO have met several times for offsite days to plan our vision and strategy for the coming years. Whilst the national educational climate can be extremely challenging with the rise in SEND needs of children and the recruitment and retention difficulties, there are many exciting areas to consider for our Stour Federation 2030 Strategy to ensure we are building a future focussed education which prepares our children for the possibilities ahead.

Children have taken part in an array of events in recent months including: Y5 Residential to Mount Cook, Y5/6 trip to Parliament, Y1/2 trip to Warwick to learn about the Great Fire of Warwick, Y3/4 trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, sports competitions (swimming gala, curling, bocchia, football), WaterAid assembly and workshop. Our monthly newsletters are an excellent read, highlighting all the marvellous things going on at Acorns Primary: <https://www.acornsprimary.co.uk/newsletters-2024-25/>

Our main project for this academic year, flowing the success of the library last year is the development of a Thrive Room, which will be a nurture and intervention space. Our PTA continue to be amazing and our families so generous and supportive; the funds they have raised through fetes, a bingo evening, an Easter Trail and much more will be supporting this exciting room transformation which will benefit all children in school.

Hannah Young, Headteacher