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**Headteacher: Mrs Jan Fellows**

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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your children are all enjoying the summer. I wanted to write with a 'whistle-stop tour' of the past school year from the governors, as well as a summary of our SATS results.

This year has provided a number of challenges for our school community, including an unplanned change of staff for years 5/6 and within a relatively small team, this of course has an impact. Despite all of this, the staff team have maintained their commitment to providing a well-balanced, exciting and engaging curriculum for the children and as always there have been some memorable experiences for all.

Here is just a flavour of what your children have been up to:

**Science:** For Science Week we experienced the 'power cut' which all of our children embraced with incredible enthusiasm and that then inspired other activities on the sustainability theme; our commitment to weaving sustainability into school life and learning was reflected in the following science awards received: Better Energy School Awards £750 awarded for 'Close Encounters of the Plastic Kind'; 'Power Sources of the Future' £600 received from the Institute of Physics and Hinkley Connection Project £500.

**Trips:** We thoroughly enjoyed trips to Station Farm and Avalon Marshes and our whole school end of year trip to Longleat. Draconis class also visited The Roman Baths.

**Music:** As well as continuing our whole school singing sessions with Mr North, this year we recorded 'Musical Meare', a 17 track CD of all the children's wonderful singing (after a school art competition to design the cover!). We strengthened our links with the local community through music, singing at the Post Office and the local church. We also enjoyed musical fun with the Rocktopus assembly.

**Sports:** As well as our regular PE sessions and the after school sports club provided by Key Stage Coaching, the children had the chance to engage in some exciting new sporting experiences - all classes enjoyed an archery session, they have tried their hand at golf and some took part in an interschool netball tournament. We were also visited by a Team GB high jumper, who led a training session with the children and gave some great advice. At the end of our Sports Week in June, we were also blessed with good weather for this year's Sports Day, where the theme was based on the 'Rugby World Cup' and the children started it off with an impressive 'Haka' dance.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**Literature:** The children enjoyed Roald Dahl Day at the beginning of the school year and had fun exploring poetry on Dr Seuss day. We were delighted to welcome the published poet, Josh Siegel - Poetry to our School, who led a poetry workshop. We took part in the 'Readathon' and enjoyed a whole school trip to Strode Theatre to see The Jungle Book. The Year 4 children also visited the Octagon in Yeovil to hear Tom Fletcher talk about his latest book as part of the Yeovil Literary Festival.

**School Productions:** We continue to value the creativity and teamwork which the children experience by taking part in our school shows. We continue to be delighted with how the children always rise to this challenge with confidence and enthusiasm. This year the KS1 production of '*I Wish It Could be Christmas Every Day!*' and the KS2 production '*We Are the World!*' (on the theme of renewable energy, inspired by Science Week) were performed to delighted audiences.

**Fundraising:** With the help of the members of 'Friends of Meare' we enjoyed very successful Christmas and Summer Fairs, as well as a Mad Hatters Tea Party which raised additional funds to enable the staff to continue to provide an engaging and creative curriculum for your children. We are very proud of our School Forum who worked tirelessly to raise money for Leukaemia UK. We have also supported other good causes through donations on non-uniform days and, for example, the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon.

### **Academic assessments (SATS):**

The School is required to assess the children at various stages throughout their school life. This year the test results have been strong overall, with the Early Years Foundation stage showing a really strong level of development compared to the national average, the Year 1 phonics screening being at national standard and the KS1 results showing a high level of attainment in all areas (reading, writing and maths) compared to national averages. The KS2 results were not as strong, with results around or just above or just below the national average. This was across reading, writing, spelling and grammar (SPAG) and maths.

Thank you for your support in preparing for the SATs, as we appreciate, it has been a stressful time for pupils and parents alike. The governors are satisfied that the KS2 outcomes when compared to the KS1 outcomes are understandable considering the disruption in teaching staff this past year. We are also conscious that this was a small cohort of children, so the results of each child have a significant impact on the overall percentages. As governors, we are working with the School to address any areas for improvement and to try to ensure that the strength of the KS1 results are mirrored throughout the whole school.

Please see the attached table which shows the results of our school's assessments in comparison to average national standards.

On behalf of the governors, I would like to emphasise that these tests are only a small part of your children's journey at Meare School and we value the creative, rich and diverse learning experiences which your children enjoy here. I would like to share a link to a very short video on twitter from the 'More Than a Score' campaign, which beautifully sums up what the SATS tests don't show:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1147920838626357248>

Thank you for your continuing support for our vibrant and creative School.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Paterson  
**Chair of Governors**

Four walls that hold tomorrow ...