

Thank you so much for visiting our website and finding out about our vibrant school community here at the heart of Clyst Hydon. We are a small school but with big ambitions for our children, our staff and our wider school community. Our school and our curriculum are driven by our motto which is

## *'Love Learning, Love Life'*

This motto aims to ensure that our children have a really exciting and enriching experience here as they learn, progress and grow. It reflects our belief that as well as ensuring our children are really happy and successful learners, achieving their full potential in the core areas of the curriculum, we also aim to offer a rich tapestry of other curriculum experiences encompassing music, art, drama and sport, as well as frequent and meaningful opportunities to connect with nature and the wider world, so that our children experience success and joy in many areas of their lives.

In order to ensure that our children really do 'Love Learning and Love Life' we have 6 key values that we celebrate and develop in our children throughout the year. They are:

### **Curiosity**



We instil in our children a wonder and curiosity about the world around them. We encourage our children to ask questions in order to know more, and to answer questions, even when they are not yet sure of the answers.



### **Creativity**

We believe that all our children are creative beings and we seek every opportunity to ensure that we are developing the 'whole child'. We value the learning and the personal development that can be nurtured through creative experiences and therefore through our curriculum, through the connections and links we have, and through our enrichment opportunities, we find ways to introduce our children to music, art and drama experiences that will enrich their lives.

### **Confidence and Courage**



We want our children to succeed in all they strive to do, and we support them to attain their full potential. However, we also seek to ensure that we provide our children with challenge in their learning. We encourage and support all our children to be courageous learners, having a go at all learning even when they initially think it is hard, keeping going when they encounter difficulties and seeing how great it feels to 'get there' when they might have thought it was too hard. We provide opportunities in and around our school for our children to show leadership and to grow in confidence by leading assemblies, reading out to the whole school, taking a key role in a club, taking part in sporting contests, etc.

## Connections



It is really important to us to help our children to **CONNECT** to the wider world of which they are a part. We take our connections to and our responsibilities for the *natural world* really seriously and seek to help develop children who care deeply about the natural world and their place within it. Every week we take a curiosity walk around the local area, asking questions about what we can see, hear and smell and observing and thinking about how the world changes week by week throughout the year. We record these observations in our school book 'A Year in Clyst Hydon' or on our school blog 'A Year in Clyst Hydon'. We also work with an experienced outdoor learning teacher to develop skills that will help us to protect the natural world, whilst also enhancing our school site and ensuring we can connect with the natural world in spaces around our school. We value diversity and encourage our children to understand the *global world*, developing tolerance and friendship and making connections with schools and children in different part of the world. We also value the *local community* of Clyst Hydon of which we are a part. We identify ways to go out into our community and invite our community in, so that our school is a vibrant heart of the community.

## Compassion



Caring about each other and enabling each other to flourish and grow in a safe and loving community is very important to us. We teach our children to have compassion in all their interactions, seeking to see things from other's viewpoints and allowing other children to have different ideas, opinions and needs. Our school behaviour values of **Be Safe, Be Ready and Be Respectful** enable us to frame all our behaviour discussions around these areas, so that children understand why we have the school rules that we do.

## Communication



Being able to communicate really successfully is a key life skill and we work hard to develop our children's written and verbal communication skills. We use all learning as a way to develop and enhance our children's vocabulary and we believe in helping children use the widest vocabulary possible across all subjects, both verbally and in written form. We ensure that children's communication is always appropriate for different circumstances and give our children many opportunities to communicate with different groups for different purposes.

Please call the school office if you would like to visit our friendly and vibrant village school to find out more. I would be really happy to show you around and answer any further questions you might have.

Joanna Rousseau (Head of School)