

WYCHWOOD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL 7th May 2001

There are 187 children in the main school and 48 part-time children in the nursery class – slightly more altogether than twelve months ago. We have nine classes at present (an increase of one since last year) with class sizes ranging between 13 (a reception class) and 28 – a situation we are very proud to have improved since last year. The budget has enabled us to make these improvements and is at the forefront of our planning each year.

The new school building (which will house two new and bigger classrooms) is about to be started and, whilst we had hoped it would be ready for the beginning of the new school year in September, it now looks like it will not be ready until the end of October. However, once it is ready it will be a real help to providing extra classroom space for the older children. We are also planning to increase the outdoor facilities for the younger children at school, using the extra Devolved Capital Funding that is available to us. The children continue to be busy in the classroom and the Literacy and Numeracy hours are now well established and, alongside all the other curriculum areas that we cover (Science, ICT, History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, RE, Music and PE and Games) there sometimes doesn't seem like enough time in the week to cover it all – but somehow we do!! The atmosphere of the school remains peaceful and busy for the most part and it particularly pleases me to report that whenever we go on school visits the children's behaviour and curiosity are always commented on positively. The children and staff have also been busy outside the classroom. Some of the events and projects we have been involved with include:

- A residential field studies week in South Wales for the older children
- Visits from theatre groups and musicians
- Netball and football competitions
- Visits to Wychwoods Library and from Beryl Brown
- Chipping Norton music festival/ Oxfordshire's "Festival of Voices"
- A number of local day visits
- Links with the local W I
- The development of our Computer Suite (15 networked computers linked to the Internet)

And lastly our Key Stage Test results continue to be very good. This year the Government introduced two new awards for schools – an Improvement Award for schools whose test results had improved since 1997 and an Excellence Award for schools which produced significantly better results in 2000 than similar schools. I am very proud to say that we have won an Excellence Award – one of only, I think, seven Primary schools in Oxfordshire. This is a testament to the continuing hard work of children and colleagues and the ongoing support of parents and governors and we intend to keep working just as hard in the future.

Geoff Padmore.