



# Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School

North Road Calow Chesterfield Derbyshire S44 5BD



*'Aiming High  
Together'*

**Headteacher: Mr. M. E. Thacker**

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14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We were recently asked how Calow Primary managed to feature so regularly in the local press. The answer is quite simple; it's because the School continually strives to ensure exciting learning opportunities for its pupils! This view is confirmed by the Local Authority. Their annual review of Calow Primary was extremely positive. Comments included: "the broad and balanced curriculum...appeals to most pupils and contributes to their development and well-being." The School was praised for its work in promoting community cohesion.

We continue to place very highly our contribution to the local community. Our links with St. Peter's Church are very positive. We bid a very warm welcome to Reverend Kevin Ball who was appointed as the new Rector. We continue to have wonderful support from parents at various celebrations at Church and with our Christian charities such as the Bishop of Derby's Appeal and the Children's Society. We were selected to receive a visit from the Bishop of Repton who came in to School to present us with a commemorative Bible to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Society and 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first King James Bible. We recently learned that the School has reached the national finals of the Church Schools Awards and is only one of two Derbyshire primary schools to do so.

This year's SATs results for Calow Primary at the end of Key Stage Two are outstanding: 91% of pupils achieved Level 4 and above for Reading; 74% achieved Level 5! 91% achieved Level 4 and above in Writing; 61% achieved Level 5! The overall English results are that 91% of children achieved Level 4 and above with 70% achieving Level 5. 100% of children achieved Level 4 and above in Mathematics; 43% achieved Level 5. These results exceed School targets, National expectations and the Department of Education's 'Floor Standards'. We are proud of all our pupils and staff who worked hard to ensure such outstanding results. Of course, our School is not just about academic results. We continue to strive for an educational setting where there is 'some thing for every one'.

During the last twelve months there have been a wide range of activities for the benefit of children at Calow Primary. These include visits from the Pole Star Planetarium; workshops to build scale models of a Tudor House, Viking long ship and Roman catapult; as well as hosting a Maori troupe from New Zealand. There have been a number of specialist weeks in areas such as Science, the Arts and Literacy. Children have been engaged in projects that involve working closely with the community. Examples include Year Two pupils working with residents of Goodman Court to produce a community mural and Year Five being the first in the county to pilot a primary school based project in conjunction with North East Derbyshire and Dales Magistrates' Bench.

There is an impressive range of extra-curricular activities on offer at Calow Primary. There have been a number of after school clubs providing multi-sports, football, dance and netball. Other clubs that have been available are: reading, gardening, Film Club, R.E. Explorers, Science and School Choir. In addition, we have offered booster classes in Literacy and Numeracy for Year Six pupils and some one to one tuition for Year Five pupils.

We constantly review the quality of provision at Calow Primary. This includes the environment in which the children are taught. During the last twelve months Governors approved building works that included a new ceiling for the School hall, an upgrade of the fire alarm system and replacement of electrical distribution boards, new door for Key Stage Two cloakroom, work to the boiler house and installation of a butterfly house. A pirate ship was built on the School field to enhance play times, courtesy of fundraising by the P.T.F.A.

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In reviewing our provision we seek the views of others. Parents of Year Six pupils were asked to complete an exit questionnaire in July and results were overwhelmingly positive. As always, we genuinely listen to the comments of parents and have consulted on a number of issues and policy documents. We know that parents have been pleased with the new emailing system implemented this year as a way of enhancing communication between home and school even further.

Through the School Council we are able to gauge the thoughts of all our pupils. The School Council is made up of elected pupil representatives from each class. There are three committees: Personnel in which pupils participate in the interviewing process for new staff; Health and Safety so that pupils can bring to our attention any issues of concern; and Anti-Bullying. The latter committee confirms that Calow Primary is effective at dealing with any allegations of bullying when they arise. You will be aware that our School is part of Derbyshire's Anti-Bullying Commitment for which we won an award of excellence.

Awards we have received this year include Investors in People. We were particularly pleased to note that we were classed as **outstanding** in all areas. Two pupils were runners up in the Chesterfield in Bloom competition. As Green Flag winners for our environmental work, we have led the way in Derbyshire by being a host school for training of teachers from across the county. Our achievements are testimony to the hard work of staff and pupils but also to the positive support we receive from parents.

All in all I am sure you will agree that 2011 has been a wonderful year. Next year our School will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and will be welcoming the Olympic Torch when it comes to Calow so we have a lot to look forward to in 2012. Thank you for your part in ensuring an exciting education for the children in our care. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

*M E Thacker*

Headteacher

