



It takes a village to make a school

There is an African proverb that says that it takes a village to raise a child. This month I am looking at how the village of Stogursey has made our school the busy small rural school that it is, with its own distinctive character. All the children, parents, carers, staff, church and volunteers make it a very special place indeed.

The Children

Matilda is a house captain of Farah House. Stogursey school has three houses, named in 2012 after British Olympic gold medalists. Matilda says "I love supporting my team and giving them courage and then in return they support me. I try to be encouraging, I make sure everyone joins in and isn't left out. I say *well done* for trying even if they don't win. We do things as a house at sports day, and then sometimes we work with the children in other classes when we do topic days like 'what's in the box?' I love working with the little ones, they make you laugh and come out with great ideas. Being a house captain has taught me to never give up. Don't let your team down and enjoy taking part."



The Business Manager

Mrs Carter is the business manager

I do all the admin for finance for the school. I love how it's different all the time. I don't have a typical day, but I do everything from ordering supplies, dealing with invoices, chase children for letter and consent forms, prepare letters to go out, order the school meals, answer the phone and queries from parents, governors, teachers."

The Teaching Assistant

Mrs Payne loves her job as a teaching assistant. "I love the meet and greet every morning. You get to meet each child and they have their own way of saying hello and you know

by how they greet you how they're feeling. The best thing about my job is watching the children develop and having fun and achieving things that they never thought they would."

The Head of School

Mr Tucker says "I've enjoyed working with some great people, the children, the staff, the parents, governors and the MAT are all amazing to be working with. I have always said the children are incredible here. You teach them something and they run with it. They are always happy and welcoming to visitors and they have a desire to learn things. For me, that's half the battle won. I'd like to see us becoming really famous for solving challenges that small rural schools face. Very little research exists around challenges such as mixed age classes, fluctuations in results due to small cohorts and recruitment and retention of staff. Learning to be a Head in a short space of time has been challenging after being in the classroom here for a short period. I feel that the community is behind me, willing me to do well in the role and it is this support that means so much to me. If I was in charge of education, I'd increase school funding. It's really that simple. I'm not saying spend it on extravagant things but invest in the development of staff and training that makes a huge impact on children."





The Teachers

Miss Day

"I love the challenge of teaching and you guys (the children) make it so exciting, because I never know what the day is going to bring. I don't know who's going to be sad, happy, really tired or if it's their birthday.

Teaching is exciting, fun, and it keeps you on your toes. Sometimes it makes you tired. Your mind's always very active and you need a memory like a computer. I'd be bored if I wasn't teaching. It's non-stop. My favourite

thing is when we all get together and learn something. I always finish the lesson having learned something new as well."

Miss Dunwood has been at the school for many years and even taught some of the parents of the children at school now. She says "My job's great, working with the lovely children, all thirty two of you. I enjoy working with all the adults and it's something different every day. I like to help you all to learn, you are funny and you make me happy"

Miss May says "I like being able to give children lots of skills and to watch them grow and blossom like little flowers. I like Stogursey school, it's cosy and small and we're like a family. We've got lots of space outside which is wonderful; a field and two playgrounds. It's great to get outside. When I'm not at school, I like walking and hiking to the forest and the beach even in the rain. I'm going to Wales on holiday to do some caving expeditions and challenges.



The Parents

Anna Hammond is co-chair of the Governors and has had two children at the school. "Being a governor is a great voluntary role. I'm involved in supporting and challenging the headteacher, making sure the money is well spent and helping to set the vision and ethos of the school. Each governor has a specialist role, like ensuring safeguarding is sound, ensuring that the school has a distinctive church school character or supporting subjects and key stages."

Mrs Woolacott comes into school to do reading with the children, she helps run breakfast club and is involved with FOSS. "I enjoy volunteering at school, seeing all the kids, watching them grow. I came to school here and

it's very different now. I think the school's much better; there are more resources and it feels a livelier and more exciting place to be." Friends of Stogursey School (FOSS) is our parent teacher association. With a wide range of fundraising events through the year, FOSS raises money for extras at school to enrich our children's education.

Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare?
Stogursey School is looking for volunteers to read with children at school.
Please contact the school office for more information.

PRE-SCHOOL

Stogursey Pre-school is based at Stogursey CE Primary School and serves Stogursey and the surrounding villages. Our Pre-School is set up with quality resources, carefully matched to a young child's needs and developmental stages. We aim to provide a welcoming and caring place, a beautiful stimulating environment for children from 2 years with interested and interesting adults who are sensitive to the needs of young children.

Please contact school for more details. Tel: 01278 732389

Email: stogureyschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk or preschool316@educ.somerset.gov.uk