**Cotton End Primary School**

**Governing Body Report**

**February 2018**

*We aim to provide our children with opportunities to become confident, happy children valuing and respecting diversity and who are proud of their achievements.*

**School Expansion**

Planning Consent has now been obtained for our new school site. There are 30 conditions which have to be met before the school opens (more information on Bedford Borough Website).

Governors and School staff have attended Forest School training which they found very interesting. The Trainer was very lively and enthusiastic which helped everyone to appreciate everyday outdoor resources which are freely available.

You will probably notice that work has already started on the new school site in Cotton End. An archaeological dig has commenced to dig for anything of significant

Interest. This has to be completed before the foundations can commence.

The various delays in getting on the site mean that the Early Years Pavilion will be erected first

This will mean the Pre School, Reception and Year 1 will transfer to the new site in September 2018.

The second phase will be ready for occupation in 2019 when the rest of the school will transfer to the new site.

In the meantime – staff, children and governors will be undertaking further forest school activities in and around Shocot Springs, with kind permission of the Forest of Marston Vale.

**Governance**

The Full Governing Body meets once a term, with Finance & Resources and Standards Committee meetings being held once a month. We currently have ten Governors - 1 LA Governor, 1 Parent Governor, Headteacher, 1 Staff Governor and 6 Co-opted Governors.

Governors work hard in raising standards and monitoring budgets. They give their time freely and are rewarded in the knowledge that the School is doing well with good results and numbers rising almost every term.

**Training**

Updating skills is very important. Staff are being released to attend both mandatory and skill based events. Governors also attend training events to keep abreast of changes.

The Chair of Governors attend regular briefings at Borough Hall. All Governors have roles and responsibilities relating to the School Development Plan. We have a Teacher and a Safeguarding Governor who ensure they are kept up to date with the latest legislation and attend various training events.

**Pre School**

The Pre School is going from strength to strength and is well attended and is enjoyed by all 3 – 4 year olds. We are now accepting children at 2 years and 9 months.

**Off Site Learning**

As part of belonging to the Bedford and Kempston School Sports Partnership the children have taken part in many inter school sports events including scoreball, unihoc, athletics, dance and football. All of these activities supported our achievement of a Silver School games Award.

**School Trips/Curriculum enhancement**

November – Rabbits trips to Frankie and Benny’s

December - Sing on, Squirrels and Badgers at the Corn Exchange, Bedford

January-Bikeability-KS2

**PTFA Committee**

The PTFA has recently reformed with new committee members. The Christmas Hamper has attracted match funding with grateful thanks to Barclays Bank. The committee are working towards future funding events so that they can support the Forest School with much needed equipment which will not be supplied by the Borough Council. Things like tools, trim trails, benches, trees and raised garden beds.

**Visitors to the school** **included –**

Open the Book, Friday assembly

Reverend Stephen Smith – taking assembly

Bike Ability

Zoolab Workshop – Rabbits Class

January-Road Safety Assembly-Bedford Borough Road Safety Team

**Extracurricular activities include:-**

Coding Club – after school

Dance club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Gymnastics Club

Chess club

Homework club

Maths club-yr 5

Reading booster-Yr6

**Breakfast Club**

Dawn until Dusk run this provision and is open from 7.30am until 8.45am

**After School Provision**

Dawn until Dusk also provide after school care. The children have a snack at 3.30pm and a hot tea at 4.45pm. A programme of activities is varied and ‘special events’ are advertised on the school notice board.

**Cotton End is growing and is a thriving School the Governors are very lucky to have such a dedicated workforce!**

Sandra Thacker

*Chair of Governors*

*Cotton End Primary School*

*February 2018*