**Cotton End Primary School**

**Governing Body Report**

**January to April 2017**

**School Mission Statement**

The Staff and Governors are to be congratulated on their hard work and enthusiasm in obtaining a ‘Good’ rating from the Ofsted inspection in February 2017.

(The full report is to be found on the School’s website).

In 2013 Cotton End School was inspected and graded as a Good School. Since then the School changed from a Lower School to Primary status which meant additional classes and Year 6 SATS, a huge learning curve for all. It is such an achievement to be rated ‘Good’ a Primary School.

The next inspection, in 3 year’s time, will be at another site and a much larger school, growing in size slowly as to maintain the ‘small school ethos’ which is so important to the children.

**School Expansion**

A consultation period which started in January 2017 for nearly 3 months allowed stakeholders and the local community to voice their views. Two evenings were set aside where the Borough Council and school staff attended. Some very lively discussions took place. The main concerns covered; parking; traffic calming, housing and having a large school in a small village. Everyone was encouraged to contact the Borough with their views in writing before the deadline.

**Governance**

The Full Governing Body meets once a term, with Finance & Resources and Standards Committee meetings being held once a month. We currently have seven Governors - 1 LA Governor, 2 Parent Governors, Headteacher, Staff Governor and 2 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 Safeguarding Governor and Teacher 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 currently have **37** children on the register for this term. 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. KS2 children will have swimming lessons in the summer term at a local pool.

Big Spring Sing – Otters class – singing at Kings House

**School Trips**

The School have been on several trips related to the creative curriculum which enhanced the children’s learning and broadened their wider experiences.

These have included –

*Science Museum trip for Badgers and Otters classes*

*Wimpole Farm – Rabbits class*

**Fund raising activities included -**

Red Nose Day

Sponsored Book Flip during Book Week

Cake sales

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

Open the Book

Reverend Smith

Bikeability-Yr 3/4/5/6

Sustrans-Dr Bike

The Puppet Lady

Young Carers

Waitrose-Farm to fork

**Science week**

All classes had fun and enjoyed various experimentsand learning how science works during science week.

**Extracurricular activities include:-**

Violin and piano lessons Computer Club – after school

Fencing and Dance clubs Bikeability

Big Spring Sing-Yr 5/6 Sing On –Yr 3/4

**Breakfast Club**

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

**After School Club**

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*