**Cotton End Primary School**

**Governing Body Report**

**April to July 2017**

*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**

Plans have been submitted for planning consent – we are still awaiting confirmation for the go ahead for staking out the field designated for our new school.

Governors and School staff attended a one day Forest School training which was both interesting and informative. The Trainer was very lively and enthusiastic which helped everyone to appreciate everyday outdoor resources which are freely available. Teachers and support staff have been booked for Forest School training to be held over several days during the next school year.

**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, 2 Parent Governors, Headteacher, Staff Governor and 5 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 are now accepting children at 2 years and 9 months.

**SATS Results**

Governors and Staff are extremely proud of our Year 6 SATS results this year (results are published elsewhere on the web site. Everyone has worked so hard with the staff and children putting in extra work which has paid off magnificently. The children earned their trip to MK for lunch and bowling. WELL DONE!

**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 had swimming lessons at a local pool.

**School Trips/Curriculum enhancement**

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 –

The Historic Dockyard at Chatham*~~Tilbury Dockyards~~ - Squirrels continuing the theme of boats*

Pirate Day

Seaside Day

French activities KS1 with French speaker

Teddy Bear Picnic

KS2-Bedford Modern School-theatre experience

**Fund raising activities included –**

Cake sales

Raffle-in aid of Bedford Hospital Sensory Garden

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

Open the Book

Reverend Stephen Smith – taking assembly

Secondary school representatives

Governor visits

Roman Day-History off the Page

Sustrans-Bike skills yr 5/6

**Extracurricular activities include:-**

Computer Club – after school

Dance club

Sports Club

KS2 swimming lessons

Lunchtime football skills club

Sing on Badgers class

Mad Science

**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!**

**We are looking forward to the exciting venture of a Forest School in September 2018.**

Sandra Thacker

*Chair of Governors*

*Cotton End Primary School*