**Cotton End Primary School**

**Governing Body Report**

**October 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**

The new school build is now well underway. The new term started well with new children arriving and parents showing interest in the new school. Pre School moved across to the new site in September.

There have been a few hic cups on the way – which have caused inconvenience to the residents of Cotton End. The roadway has been improved and new paths created. Traffic lights in the village for the first time and a pelican crossing which will ensure crossing the road safely.

Reception class will be moving in early October over to the much larger accommodation.

Our Site Agent Mark has been busy erecting an indoor play house in the central learning area of the EYFS pavilion, which looks impressive. We are sure the children will love it.

The rest of the school will move at the end of the year, weather permitting. Unfortunately, our climate means that should there be a lot of inclement weather this could hold up the completion date.

Once the school has moved there will be more work to do getting the rest of the site

outdoor classroom, pond areas, amphitheatre, muga and sports field up and running

These will be in addition to grass setting and planting trees, installing raised beds and even having animals on site. Of course all this will take time so we must be patient.

We must not forget the cars!

There is now a designated ‘drop off area’ disabled parking and visitors spaces. Later there will be a very large car park at the edge of Shocott Spring for parents and visitors to park and walk the children to their classrooms. The large car park will take time to be ready to accept cars but will hopefully be ready by the end of the year.

In the meantime – the children will have the forest school experience in and around Shocott Springs, within the designated areas, by kind permission of the Forest of Marston Vale.

**Governance**

The Full Governing Body meets once a month to discuss Finance & Resources and Standards. We currently have ten Governors and two Associate 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.

**Training**

Updating skills is very important. Staff are being released to attend both mandatory and skill based events. Governors also attend training events, provided by the Borough Council 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 2 – 4 year olds.

**SATS for Year 6** children took place between 21 – 25 May - Governors were fortunate to be able to be part of the invigilating process. It was amazing to see the children’s concentration and dedication to complete tasks.

This year we came ***TOP o***f the Borough Schools with our SAT’s results, so all staff and Governors are immensely pleased. Well done everyone, children and staff!

**Extracurricular activities include:-**

Coding Club – after school

Dance club

Lunchtime and after school Sports Club

Gymnastics Club

Chess club

Homework club

Maths club-yr 5

Reading booster-Yr6

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

Open the Book, Friday assembly

Reverend Stephen Smith – taking assembly

Kempston Fire Station visiting Squirrels Class

School Readers Charity-volunteers

**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, goalball, golf, orienteering and football. All of these activities supported our achievement of a Silver School games Award.

Year 4 have also been to watch a performance of In The Net-highlighting online safety.

**PTFA Committee**

The Fundraising arm of the PTFA over the last few months have organised various fundraising activities during the school term and school holidays. They have really done very well. The aim is to buy equipment for the new Forest School.

**Wrap around Care provided by Dawn Until Dusk**

*Breakfast Club* is open from 7.30am until 8.45am

*After School Provision*

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*

*October 2018*