**Cotton End Forest School**

**Governing Body Report**

**April 2019**

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

**New School Premises**

All the children and staff moved into their new school and classrooms on 4 March.

Everyone was so excited with having so much play area.

The roadway and path between Shortstown and Cotton End has been improved with pelican crossings. The street lighting will be operational fairly soon.

The site has swales, a pond – with a dipping station, amphitheatre, muga and a football pitch.

Grass seeding will be taking place during the Easter Break

We need to allow time for the vegetation to grow so the whole site will not be readily available until later in the year. However the outdoor classrooms are being installed.

We must not forget parking!

There is now a designated ‘drop off area’, disabled parking and visitor spaces. A very large car park at the edge of Shocott Springs for parents and visitors to park who will then walk the children to the school gate.

The children have a dedicated weekly forest school experience in and around Shocott Springs, by kind permission of the Forest of Marston Vale.

**Governance**

The Full Governing Body meets once a month to discuss the business of the school. 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.

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.

We are very proud that Cotton End Forest School came top in the Borough Schools with our SAT’s results last year.

**Extracurricular activities include:-**

Coding Club – after school

Dance club

Lunchtime Sports Club

Gymnastics Club

Chess club

Homework club

Owls and Willows visit to Woburn Safari Park

**Helping Others**

Red Nose Day

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

Tell a Story assembly

Bedford Mayor opening of the new school site – buried a time capsule with the school council scattering flower seeds near the amphitheatre.

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

**PTFA Committee**

The Fundraising arm of the PTFA is very active and 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.

PTFA 5 April Easter Hamper

**Wrap around Care provided by Dawn til 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 Forest School - April 2019*