**Cotton End Primary School**

**Governing Body Report**

**July 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.*

As we come to the end of another school year we have grown considerably with an increase of school children; parents who have visited the school can see the wide ranging benefits of outdoor learning. Children of all ages are growing in confidence as they explore the supervised outside forest environment, using their own skills rather than be directed in what to do. This in turn reflects in their day to day schoolwork taking risks and making mistakes but learning at the same time.

The school is moving to separate classes for separate year groups from September, which will benefit both the children and staff.

We are welcoming new members of staff in September in Pre School and Year 6.

SATS - we are extremely pleased with our results this year moving to 70% combined

which is higher than last year. Congratulations to all concerned, staff and children!

**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. The HT, Assistant Heads and Chair of Governors meet with the School Improvement Partner from Borough regularly, who challenges, supports and offer suggestions to the school to move standards even higher.

Monitoring of budgets is essential and each month all Governors can seek clarification on expenditure to date and projections to end of year from the Finance Manager, to ensure that the school stays within budget.

Governors 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. Governors undertake a visit as least once a year and are assigned to classes. Their reports are linked to the School priorities which change from year to year.

The School has a Teacher and a Safeguarding Governor who ensure they are kept up to date with the latest legislation, undertake safeguarding audit 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

Ninja Academy

**Helping Others**

Children in need

**Visitors to the school** **include –**

Tell a Story assembly

Mad Science

Andrew Macdermott-pottery workshop

**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.

Sing on Kingfishers at Kings House

Walking Charter-Modeshift/Travel plan champions

Eagles trip to Royal Gunpowder Mills

Swimming for Years 4,5 and 6

**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.

**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 Primary School - July 2019*