**Cotton End Forest School**

**Governing Body Report**

**January 2021**

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

**COVID 19**

All children and staff return to school in September 2020. The first few weeks were taken up with the children revisiting what they had learnt prior to the lockdown in March. The catch up probably took most of the weeks leading to half term. This is very concerning to all teachers and governors as the children’s education has suffered through this epidemic.

**January 2021**

Another lockdown, at very short notice, after all the preparations for welcoming the children back ready to start the new year. This was all very hard for staff and children to make any sense of it all.

Key worker and vulnerable children who come into school have the same online learning as the children at home, which had previously been prepared by the teaching staff. Teachers have online contact with children daily. All staff are on a rota system to come into school.

Risk assessments are continually changed to copy with this epidemic – no visitors

are allowed in school

Governors are not able to visit and see what the children have been learning. Meetings are held virtually and at other times we communicate by email. Policies to be amended and agreed.

Governor and staff training undertaken remotely via video conferencing. A new skill which we all had to learn. My weekly meetings with the Headteacher continue virtually.

Free school meals vouchers had to be administered sent or delivered to parents.

over the festive period.

No wrap around care available, no care club on a Friday afternoon.

The Government guidelines stated that children were to be confined their ‘bubble’

with their teacher, teaching assistant and a maximum of 15 children. No mixing with other children from other bubbles. Each bubble have their own indoor and outdoor classrooms. Play times are staggered to limit contact with others. This time hot lunches are available.

My grateful thanks to all staff who are coping very well in unprecedented times and

the Headteacher who has shown remarkable resilience in such extraordinary circumstances.

*Sandra Thacker*

*Chair of Governors*

*Cotton End Primary School*