**Cotton End Forest School**

**Governing Body Report**

**February 2022**

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

The children returned to school after the Christmas break and settled into school routine.

With so many staff and children getting COVID it has been a very difficult half term.

Supply staff enabled the school to function, in addition to the staff including the Headteacher covering classes, playtimes and lunches. Let’s hope the next half term fairs better than this one.

Year 5 have completed their swimming sessions

Teaching Talons visited Reception

Children's Mental Health Week consisted of a range of activities for all year groups

Frank, our reading dog visited– he listens to the children read

The children in KS2 took part in a sponsored Forest School Skills Day the children demonstrated the skills they had learned in knots, den building, using penknives, bow saws, drills.

Topics covered so far have been –

Around the World - start of an imaginative trip on an aeroplane, with staff as cabin crew and their own passports!

Famous for more than 5 minutes topic – Space Day - the children came into school dressed as astronauts, aliens or other characters related to space exploration.

Stone Age – the children made their own rock cakes and weapons

Roman invasion - in the school hall where the children shared their rowing skills, battle cries, beating drums and feelings of fear of invasion-super acting.

Victorian era - events in the life of Queen Victoria

WW2 – events leading up to the start of the war

Plus – learning outside the classroom and going to Forest School

Governors have been assigned to classes to arrange visits for the remainder of the school year. Virtual assemblies have been open to all Governors, I have been fortunate to attend most Fridays and see and hear what the children have learned and then are able to recall what they have done, what successes or failures they had and able to explain how they did it. A couple of other Governors have found time to attend which they found both enjoyable and informative.

Attendance is mentioned each Friday to identify which class had the most children in school that week – the winners receive ‘Charlie Bear’ to look after. Birthdays are also celebrated, in addition to mentioning each child who have gained either 10 - 40 Gold Stars in KY1 and 10 – 60 Merits in KS2.

The School is growing at a rapid pace as more and more houses are being built in the local area. Each year group moves to 2 form entry each September together with new staff appointments. Eventually the School will be a 3 form entry.

My grateful thanks to all staff who have coped very well in unprecedented times and

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

*Sandra Thacker*

*Chair of Governors*

*Cotton End Forest School*