**Cotton End Forest School**

**Governing Body Report**

**APRIL 2023**

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

**Ofsted Visit**

The School had their Ofsted visit, in January 2023, this was a taxing two days for everyone staff and Governors alike.

On the first day the Senior Leadership Team had a lengthy phone call with Inspectors, this should have been for 90 mins however, the call lasted over 2 hours.

On the Tuesday three Inspectors walked round the school asking questions to both staff and children.

On second morning Governors met with one Inspector and were grilled about how well they knew the school and whether appropriate challenge was in place.

When the report was published it was disappointing to know that the school requires improvement in the area of the leadership and management, covering the curriculum. Behaviour and attitudes and personal development, SEND provision together with the Early years provision was deemed to be judged as ‘Good’.

Feedback from parents was very positive and supportive of the school regardless of the Inspectors judgement, saying that their child/children were doing very well.

Steps have been taken to deal with the area of concern and more information will be available later next term. The school and Governors are determined that at the next inspection, in 30 months’ time, the inspectors will see what improvements have been made.

**Friday Assembly**

As part of getting to know the school the Chair and Vice Chair attended several assemblies on Friday afternoons. This is an opportunity for Governors to hear and see what the children have learnt and retained during the week. Showing their written work and pictures. House points are given out at assembly and the winning house announced.

**Attendance**

Attendance figures are mentioned each Friday during assembly, with the winning class had the most children in school that week. The aim is for 98% – the winners who have the highest percentage of attendance, receive ‘Charlie Bear’ to look after. Birthdays are also celebrated. Stars in KS1 and merits in KS2 are awarded for achievements made in their learning.

**Activities**

In February the after-school club Dance Club returned.

In Book Week there was a Scholastics Book Fair a sponsored Book Read and a Cake competition.

A coffee morning for KS1 and Early Years.

Reading with Grandparents in the afternoon of 1st March.

World Book Day with the children dressing up in the character of their choice

A bring and buy book sale which raised funds for our School

**School Visits**

Reception class visiting Woburn Safari Park.

Year 1 Great Fire of London Workshop

Year 2 A trip to Rockingham Castle,

Year 4 Visited the Verulamium Museum

**Forest School**

The Forest School Ambassadors raised funds for a Forest School Flag so

visitors to Shocott Springs will know the children are from our School.

As Chair of Governors I visited all classes from - Pre School through to Year 6 from January through to March 2023. It was an amazing experience and thoroughly enjoyable. A report from me was sent to each teacher and circulated to all Governors.

At the next Governor meeting we broke off halfway through the meeting

so that Governors could look at the Early Years setting. Governors enjoyed the experience and wish to visit other classrooms during future Governor meetings, time permitting.

To end this report, my grateful thanks to the Headteacher and all staff who have all worked extremely hard for all the children at Cotton End Forest School.

*Sandra Thacker*

*Chair of Governors*

*Cotton End Forest School*

*April 2023*