**Cotton End Forest School**

**Governing Body Report**

**DECEMBER 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”.*

**What a busy year –**

The Leadership Team decided to change the school curriculum from a creative one to a formal lesson structure with Primary Knowledge Curriculum. This change was a steep learning curve for everyone, teachers, learning support staff and the Governing Body. This new curriculum was

trialled from Easter, this enabled ironing out any issues before the new school year.

The children understand what subjects they are learning and when Governors visit

a year group, they are able to articulate what their learning journey has been. Each Governor writes up a record of the visit this is discussed at a Governors meeting and then shared with school staff.

**SATS Results**

Combined subjects could have been better. Maths and writing came out well, reading not so good, action is being taken. On the whole *good* and comparable with other local schools.

**Friday Assembly**

As part of getting to know the school the Chair and Vice Chair attend Friday Assembly each week. This is an opportunity for Governors to hear and see what the children have learnt and retained during the week. Year groups take a turn to show their written work and pictures. Birthdays are also celebrated with the children coming out to the front for the Happy Birthday song. House points are given out at assembly and the winning house announced, inviting raucous responses from all the children. Stars in KS1 and merits in KS2 are awarded for achievements made in their learning.

**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

for one week.

**Thinking of Others – fundraising by the children**

* Collection of tinned food for the Food Bank
* Poppy Appeal
* Children in Need
* Red Nose Day
* Christmas Jumper exchange for Save the Children

**Raising funds for the school**

* Monthly cake stall – with each class taking a turn
* Movie night for Reception through to Year 6

**Keeping Safe**

* Bikeability Level 1 for Years 3 and 4

**Open Day** – A morning and afternoon open day was arranged for new parents. This event was well attended.

**Visits**

* The children visited the local community on a scarecrow hunt
* They are planning a visit to the local church

**Sports competitions with sports partnership**

During the summer term a portable Swimming Poolwas installed at the school **–** this was a great success with all the children timetabled to use the pool.

**Forest School – Weekly Sessions**

In these sessions the children learn skills appropriate to their age group. Each year group use tools, learn to light a fire, cook food and make draft items.

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*

*December 2023*