



## Report for the Parish Council

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

I started the role of substantive Headteacher at the school in September and would like to thank all the members of the community who have made me feel welcome and contributed to such a positive working environment at the school. The staff at the school are committed to ensuring the school continues to be a welcoming environment that promotes high quality teaching and learning.

The children in the school are a delight to work with. I have been fortunate to teach all the classes and regularly teach the Key Stage Two classes once a week. The children have progressed well this year and are producing some great work. We revised the curriculum overview to create a two year rolling cycle and plan in exciting opportunities and visits which enhance the children's learning.

Examples of such opportunities already taken place this year include:

- The missing cookie investigation
- Gardening project
- Baptism with Rev. Alice Goodman
- Building a Roman road
- Cooking over an open fire
- Stansted visit
- Space ship landing in the playground
- Thetford forest geography fieldwork

Whole school topics are a wonderful way of celebrating learning and we have had some great activities working together. In the autumn term we had a cross year group project for children in Year 1-6 to organise a holiday for a fictitious family. From Brazil to New Zealand there were wonderful holidays of a lifetime planned! In the spring term we hosted a stargazing evening including an inspiring talk from the Institute of Astronomy. The children from Reception to Year Six also took part in an RE day learning all about Easter and collaboratively produced some wonderful work. We have now called these learning opportunities 'Together Projects'.

With a Governing Body working party we set out to revise the vision and ethos for the school. One of my first impressions of the school was about the togetherness and how the children work well together and the close community we have at the school. I am also a real advocate of creativity in learning such as the opportunities mentioned above but also aim for children to be confident in their learning and care about others, linking with our Christian ethos of the school. From these discussions our mission statement 'Together we can be confident, caring and creative learners' arose and this is now promoted throughout the school. Indeed, our School Parliament is now split up into three Ministries –





Confident, Caring and Creative – each with their own role for contributing to the school community.

The structure of the school largely remains the same with four classes and eight year groups. The Early Years benefits from having both nursery and reception children and last term we were able to install a large outdoor canopy which has opened up the classroom and we feel we have an outstanding learning environment for the children to flourish in. We have plans to develop some of the inside areas of the school to benefit the rest of the school too and look forward to this in the next year.

As a Church School, we are embedding the Christian values each week. The parish assistant regularly visits to run our happy/ sad club and the Y6 children continue to lead the prayers in assemblies. In the summer I hope they will be even more involved in assemblies and present stories to the school which are linked to our assembly themes.

Our school development plan for this year 2015-2016, is focussed on 5 key priorities but also has many more actions that are taking place to further enhance the provision for the children. We have been working hard to further raise standards in English across the school through:

- Guided reading carousels promoting shared reading but also developing key skills and independent learning,
- Writing journals to children in Key Stage Two,
- Promotion of writing in the hall and
- Parent writing workshops to develop creative writing both orally and in written form.

Other exciting projects/ initiatives in operation since last year:-

- Successful after school provision which runs four days a week,
- Sports coaches delivering high quality lunchtime sports provision
- Fantastic forest schools area built with the help and support of the PTFA
- 20 tablets which also have keyboards and can be used as tablets or laptops
- Whole school Christmas production and a fantastic spring concert, both organised by Miss Milner
- Some brilliant PTFA events including a school disco, two Bake-Off evenings with Ian Cumming, film night and a very creative Easter craft afternoon

If anyone feels they have any skills or interests that might link with our curriculum please let us know. This term has a history theme before launching into learning about the Olympics. Thank you for your continued support, you are always welcome to visit our school.

Richard Brown

Headteacher

