

As Chair of Governors I am delighted to report that Trottiscliffe C E Primary School is thriving!

Currently we only have two spaces for children in the school with a role of 82 - this is the highest number of pupils in more than 10 years. Our most recent published end of Key Stage 2 outcomes for our children moving on to secondary school was at 100% in reading, writing and mathematics, making us one of the highest performing schools in Kent.

Due to the increase of pupils we moved from three to four classes in September. With limited expense, we were able to make one of the larger classes into two. We currently have a Year R class, a Year 1/2 class, a Year 3/4 class and a Year 5/6 class.

In November the Head Teacher, Lucy Henderson, accompanied others from local villages and churches to Uganda as part of the Fields of Life Project. This visit has enabled Lucy to make links with schools and to share with pupils a global perspective on children's lives in contrasting localities, providing a real sense of the wider world. This work has also enhanced our already embedded links with the Church and to understand Christianity as a world-wide faith.

The School and Community farm has also taken off this year. We are grateful to our Vice Chair of Governors, Dave Urmston, who has taken the lead with this project and its development. The children are increasingly using this resource to enrich their curriculum and successfully run a farm committee with representatives from each year group.

Our Trottiscliffe School Association (TSA) have been remarkable with their fundraising in the last few years and it is with no surprise that with their own children moving on to secondary and themselves on to other ventures, they felt it was the right time to retire from their posts. We are keen that other parents stand up to the roles so that future events and fundraising for the school can continue. In the meantime, smaller, school run events will take place beginning with our summer fair which will be held after school on the school grounds, planned and run by the children and staff (with some help from the parents too)! We are hopeful that our fireworks event will still go ahead.

With a growing number on role we have been able to make more use of the tennis courts. We are now awaiting netball markings to support our teams and forthcoming matches.

Thanks to some of the Trottiscliffe residents and the Parish Council it was agreed that the school could store and archive some photographs and other documents from years gone by. Many of the photographs and documents are linked to the school and the older children will be working on a project including an exhibition of 'Then and Now' which we will invite and welcome the wider community to during the summer term.

We are always grateful for the tremendous continuous support our community give us. From attending our fund-raising events, to being school governors or by just taking a vested interest in the life of the school.

The money given to us annually by the Parish Council is very welcomed and I am pleased to report that this year the funds have gone towards purchasing up to date maps, atlases and globes for each class. Many thanks for this contribution.

Please do look at our school website to see what we are up to from term to term. Our newsletters to parents and governors are published on the website as well as photographs and key information and would give you a taste of what it is like to be a child at Trottiscliffe CE Primary school. Please also keep an eye out for our very smart mini bus which will be parked at the school and used regularly to transport children to P.E. fixtures as well as other events to support the curriculum!

Polly Sharman

Chair of Governors

Trottiscliffe CE Primary School