

Trottiscliffe Church of England Primary School

Report for Parish Council April 2023



Trottiscliffe CEP School has had a very exciting year and has continued to go from strength to strength in the past 12 months.

The school roll is consistently now operating at our expected capacity. Most year groups are full or over subscribed and we have waiting lists for some of our year groups. For September we had 20 applications for the 12 spaces we offer so we hope to be full again for the next academic year.

This means we are able to maintain the current school structure of four classes: 12 pupils in Early Years, 24 pupils in Years 1 and 2, 24 in Years 3 and 4 and 24 in Years 5 and 6.

Attainment Outcomes

Our attainment last summer went against national trends with our pupils outperforming both county and national outcomes. These were the first assessments post-pandemic and national there was a a huge dip, however thanks to the huge support provided to our pupils during periods of lockdown and once we could fully open, our progress has continued to rise.

		Trottiscliffe	National
Phonics	Year 1	89%	74%
	Year 2	100%	87%
Key Stage One	Reading	93%	67%
	Writing	86%	58%
	Maths	93%	68%
Key Stage Two	Reading Expected Standard	100%	75%
	Reading Higher Standard	42%	28%
	Writing Expected Standard	92%	69%
	Writing Higher Standard	25%	13%
	GPS Expected Standard	92%	72%
	GPS Higher Standard	58%	28%
	Maths Expected Standard	100%	71%
	Maths Higher Standard	33%	23%
	Combined RWM Expected Standard	92%	59%
	Combined RWM Higher Standard	17%	7%

Our Early Years practice is widely recognised as excellent and in the past year we have had 16 other schools visit us to observe what we do and to advise on how they could improve their approach in their own school. The local authority, as well as external consultants,

recommend that early years practitioners visit us. This is something we are very proud of and furthermore we were invited to present a workshop at the Kent Early Years Conference in February this year. To build upon the excellent experience our children have in their first year, we have improved our approach to learning in Key Stage One with children now being able to continue to learn in the more practical, independent way they have developed in our Reception Class. This has led to improved attainment and engagement with learning but most importantly has led to happier children who demonstrate a real love of learning.

At the beginning of the year, just 10 days into the first term, we were inspected by Ofsted. Unfortunately, it was an ungraded inspection meaning we were not able to improve upon our previous 'Good' grading. However, the inspection went very well, the inspectors were very complimentary about all that was happening in the school, about the improvements implemented by the leadership team since our last inspection in 2017, and the quality of education that our children are experiencing. They referred to the recurring theme of family in the school – from the children, staff, parents and governors and said it was a positive place to be. They commented on our ambitious and engaging curriculum and on how positive and confidently the children were able to talk about what they have been learning. We were very proud that 100% of parents reported they would recommend the school and that their child feels safe and happy at the school. The pupils survey was similarly overwhelmingly positive so although we remain graded as a 'Good' school, our inspection report paints a very positive picture.

Taking learning outside the classroom, children have been on a number of visits. Rochester Cathedral, Science Museum, Safety in Action, Imperial War Museum, Pantomime, Wintershall's Life of Christ, Museum of London, weekly swimming lessons, performing at Young Voices at the O2 and of course the 5 day residential trip to PGL for Year 6. We already have another residential trip booked for June as well as trips to West End shows, the Gurdwara, Hever Castle already booked for next term. Children have also enjoyed learning in Forest School, learning at the farm, sleepovers at the school and last year's big achievement – the Climb Kilimanjaro challenge to fundraise for our African Lapa (an outdoor classroom space).

Clubs offered at the school over the past year include: tennis, choir, reading club, shepherding club, netball, hockey, gardening, art club, board games, carpentry, athletics, cricket, football, paddleball and most recently a bee club where the children have been learning about farming of bees for honey production as well as building a bee hive for the farm and planning a pollination garden to surround it. Sadly the recurring bird flu restrictions over the past year have had a real impact on the school being able to visit the farm as often as we would like but we hope that restrictions will be lifted soon to enable us to plan for more activity. Clubs and extra-curricular activities are all well-supported and it's lovely to see the children taking an interest in these additional experiences. As always the school also involved all pupils in a nativity play at Christmas, as well as the annual leavers' production last summer and it was lovely to be able to invite parents into the school to watch in person again.

Last summer saw our netball team return to competitive matches, taking part in the Maidstone Schools' tournament and finishing runners up. This academic year, we have joined the Maidstone league and cup tournaments. Trottiscliffe are currently at the top of League A as well as reaching the final of the Netball Cup tournament next term, having been undefeated in our matches this season. Most recently we played in the Kent-Teach Tournament and finished top of the group stage, winning our semi-final and taking the final to extra-time finally finishing runners-up with the result being 3-2. It has been so rewarding to see the team develop and grow stronger and the dedication from the players and the team coach is evident in the results they have achieved.

As a school we have celebrated and supported England in the World Cup, Children in Need, World Book Day and Comic Relief, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as well as marking the death of the Queen with a school book of memories and well wishes that was sent to the palace. We are looking forward to celebrating King Charles' coronation next term with another Trottiscliffe playground 'Street Party' planned.

Our TSA continues to actively support all we do in school. They spent a lot of effort organising the fundraising for our outdoor classroom in the style of an African lapa for the children to use during their outdoor learning activities as well as at lunchtimes. We held a sponsored hill climb in the country park in May where we aimed to collectively climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. This event raised the total amount needed which was beyond all expectations. Our new TSA chair reinstated the annual fireworks display last autumn which was a huge community event. The school would like to thank members of the parish for their ongoing support for these school events which are desperately needed with the constant pressures on our squeezed budget as such a small school.

As a school, we are in a strong position with a fantastic staff team and a strong, exciting and ambitious curriculum that offers the children a well-rounded experience. We now want to make further improvements to our learning environment. We are looking to replace the lighting in the school to a more eco-friendly solution with LED lighting and we are planning on renovating our garden room to become a library. Hopefully these projects will be completed this year if our funding allows.

On behalf of the school may we thank the parish for the continual support offered to the school and we hope we can continue to work in partnership in the coming year.

Lucy Henderson
Headteacher