

It is with a tinge of sadness and many happy memories that I write my final report to the Parish Council as I will be retiring at the end of the summer term after 6 years as Headteacher at Hartest CEVC Primary School. It is a privilege to end my career after being part of such a special school and working alongside like-minded governors and colleagues who always go the extra mile for the benefit of our children.

Our performance results in 2015 were above national averages in the following areas:-

- Early Years 'Good Level of Development' was 85% compared to the national average of 66%
- Year 1 'Working at' Phonics Check was 83% compared to the national average of 77%
- KS1: in Reading 94% national average was 82%

Writing	96%	72%
Maths	93%	82%
- In KS2 whilst attainment was below national averages, 100% of pupils made the expected progress from year 2 to year 6 with 83% making the expected progress in Reading (This is one pupil as each child = 17%). 33% made more than expected progress in Reading and Maths with 17% exceeding progress expectations in Writing. We were also delighted that one pupil attained level 6 in Writing and Maths with a second pupil missing level 6 Maths by 1mark.

For a third consecutive year the school has faced many challenges due to staff illness and recruitment difficulties. 3 members of staff have been on long term sick leave, this includes 2 support staff that are currently on leave receiving chemotherapy. Other members of staff are also carers for their seriously ill partners, have experienced bereavement or currently undergoing health assessments. In addition, the school has been unable to recruit a permanent teacher for Year 5 & 6 since April 2015. For the stability of the pupils the headteacher has been teaching an 80% timetable since January 2016. This unsettledness plus the uncertainty surrounding the headteacher recruitment process has resulted in several families transferring their children to other schools. A member of staff started maternity leave at Easter and an agency teacher has taken over her teaching commitment. The current pupil roll is 65. Reception class has six pupils, Year 4 has seven pupils and Year 5 has three pupils.

The governors are constantly looking for different and unique ways to promote the school within the local and wider community. For example:-

- They have produced a new prospectus and postcards which are placed in various public venues across the area to let them know that our fantastic school at the heart of our picturesque village can offer so many opportunities to children and their families both locally and beyond the designated catchment area.
- Mrs Burr has worked for three years to incorporate the land behind the school into the school grounds. This continues to be 'work in progress'

On 7th March the school had its Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools. The staff and governors were pleased that the report re-affirmed the school's vision of 'Developing the whole child' stating that *"Each child is known and treated as special and unique; as a result of this pupils say that they like coming to school."* However, they were disappointed that the continued staffing and recruitment challenges which led to increasing Mrs Hall's teaching commitment significantly contributed to the overall satisfactory judgement.

The school continues to maintain and increase its range of enhanced or enrichment opportunities for our pupils alongside its involvement within the local community. Examples over the last year include:-

- The year 5 / 6 Activities Week included a day in London at the Imperial War Museum and watching Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, A day visit to Frithy Wood with the Green Light Trust, a Food Technology day and a 2 hour First Aid session.
- Year 3 & 4 had an overnight visit to Thorpe Woodlands and took part in 2 days of activities which included: A climbing tower, caves, archery range, kayaks, canoeing, zip wires, low ropes, cycling and a marshmallow campfire evening.
- Forest Schools has proved so successful that we have extended this to include all pupils from Reception to Year 4.
- Christmas is always special at Hartest and this year was no exception as the children were involved in Carol Singing at the Cathedral, Listening to Bedouin Tent stories performed by members of the Discovery Centre, lead our own Christmas service at All Saints Church and our annual Christmas performance of 'A tale of Two Birthdays', To round off this festive season, KS2 children produced 25 decorated chocolate logs for the now traditional Log competition.
- Our end of year leavers treat focused on our local community this year with the pupils spending a morning exploring Hartest Wood followed by lunch at The Crown with myself and the Chair of Governors.

Unfortunately our swimming pool had to be closed last year for health and safety reasons. Years 4, 5 and 6 were able to travel to the Kingfisher pool in Sudbury for their lesson, a provision which takes a whole morning when including travelling time. This is a provision which many schools cannot now provide and one which is greatly valued by all our parents. So much so that the Friends of Hartest School have been fundraising specifically to ensure that the pool is ready for use on 6th June this year. With matched sponsorship from FOHS fundraising events and donations from local residents the FOHS have raised £12000 in a year to cover the costs of all repairs to the pool itself and replace worn out steps leading to the pool. This reflects the active support for the school from both parents and the local community.

The collaboration between The Friends of Hartest School and the Parochial Parish Council goes from strength to strength each year as they co-ordinate the annual Hartest Village Fete; a typically quintessential English village event that I know I will continue to visit in years to come.

Week commencing 23rd May we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school being on its current site. We plan to invite past pupils from the village to the school and have a celebration service in the church followed by a tea party on the school field. All members of the Parish Council are warmly invited to join us.

Hilary Hall
Headteacher