

Report from the Headteacher of the Cartwright & Kelsey Primary School to the  
Annual Parish Meeting – April 2019

As a school we have had a very successful 19 months. We have worked very hard to improve the previous Requires Improvement grades from Ofsted in 2015 and 2017 and the Requires improvement grade from SIAMS in 2016. Ofsted and SIAMS inspections are now both imminent and we have had very successful monitoring visits for both. Our KS2 results for 2018 were above the national and county level for the first time since the new curriculum was introduced in 2014. I feel lucky to be part of such a strong and supportive community. Ash Cartwright and Kelsey is a fantastic school - we are blessed with amazing children, talented staff and a wonderful learning environment with spacious grounds. Our deputy headteacher, Ms Graham has led a lot of the RE improvements and is currently undertaking her C of EPQH (Headship qualification). It is definitely a school that is going places. We are rapidly improving - led on our journey by our vision statement and values. The values that we live by at our school are;

**joy, perseverance, creation, friendship, forgiveness and community.**

Our strapline is: **Through God's love and strength all flourish**

One of our key strengths is our curriculum (overhauled in September 2017), children are very enthusiastic about their topics and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Pirates, Harry Potter, space, Mayans, Tudors, the Stone Age and Katie Morag - to name a few. Trips for the children have included visiting the science museum in London, Harry Potter Studios, Voice in a Million at Wembley and various trips to Dover Museum.

We continue to benefit enormously with generous donations from local charities. Jack Foat recently donated funds to ensure that we could buy a class set of iPads – these will be very well used! Cartwright, Godfrey and Kelsey contributed towards our year 6 residential trip. We have a hard working and committed PTFA that have also contributed to school improvements and a governing body that are dedicated to the school. The next part of our journey is to raise funds to buy a minibus to ensure that children access a range of wider curriculum activities. We are part of a strong HUB that offers the children opportunities to take part in events such as chess, poetry reading, gifted and talented events, music collaborations and school council events at the Dover Chamber of Commerce. The children are missing out because we are unable to attend these events – a minibus would solve this problem. The pressure on school budgets is huge with more cuts being proposed. A minibus would ensure that the children are not affected by budget cuts and could also be used by the community for events, the Chequers pub, the WI etc. As a school we have raised £1420 although we will need in the region of £20,000. We have also received 2 cheques from parishioners following an article in the Parish Magazine – this kind of generosity is humbling. We are also one of the good causes at the Co-op in Sandwich – so please donate to our school if you visit to help our minibus campaign.

Ann Foat ensured that funds raised by the SAWWES Group were used to buy plants for our spiritual garden. Bishop Trevor visited the school in February 2019 to bless this. A representative from the WI made our values banners that were designed by the children and now hang proudly in our corridors. We are blessed to be part of such a strong community – together we can achieve great things.

We know that we are now a good school – we want recognition of this and we strive for our Church school to be a centre of excellence in the community. I feel strongly that all children from the village should attend their village school and receive the very best education possible.

**Fiona Crascall - Headteacher**