

Report from Headteacher to Ash Annual Parish Meeting – April 2022

We have had another successful year, despite the challenges of COVID. We supported our children during the partial school closure and still had 54% of our pupils in school, every day. From September 2021, we have focused on a recovery curriculum and have made the mental health of children and staff a priority. The children start each day by running or walking in our 'daily mile'. We have made sure that the children have had a rich variety of trips and visits and have had lots of themed weeks such as; children's mental health week, diversity week, book week and a 'wow' creative week. The school now employs a play therapist. We celebrated the fact that there has been a school in Ash for 300 years (1721 – 2021) by making a whole school mosaic, supported by local artists. Each member of the school community fitted a piece of mosaic into the finished piece – marking a little piece of history.

We continue to benefit enormously with generous donations from local charities. School budgets are squeezed ever tighter and this is our biggest challenge in school. In November 2021, Jack Foat paid for our brand new after school/well-being lodge to be installed. This is used as a designated well-being/after school club and the children love this space. We had a whole school competition to name this, and it has been called 'The Flock's Nest'. Bishop Rose came to bless our new resources. Cartwright, Godfrey and Kelsey donated funds to ensure that our year 6 children could recreate their end of year residential in July 2021 (this was cancelled due to Covid). They had trips and visits in our local area to experience zip wires, climbing, Fowlmead and Howletts. We even had an overnight camp out and BBQ on the school field. Ash United Charities donated funds to ensure that all children (including our vulnerable families) are fed and watered at our breakfast club. The school community really appreciates this support. We continue to have a hard working and committed PTFA that have contributed to school improvements/trips for the children and a governing body that are dedicated to the school. We are part of a strong HUB of Dover Schools that offer the children opportunities to take part in events such as chess, dodgeball, football and music events.

We continue to be ambitious for our school and the children who attend. We want our school to provide the very best education and for the children to enjoy

their learning. Our 'good' school is now vibrant, creative and well-cared for. We are lucky to be in a position to be able to provide support to other schools in Kent. What a journey! This year we are continuing to focus on the well-being of our pupils. We are delighted that Jack Foat have agreed to fund an all-weather MUGA pitch for the children. This is a fenced sports area that means the all-weather surface will enable the children to participate in football/basketball, no matter the weather. This is being supported by other fund raising by teachers and governors. We currently are a good cause at Sandwich co-op and are raising funds to redo our tired and fading playground markings – please support this if you can.

Please do ring the school to arrange a visit if you would like to see our learning environments, mosaic and new resources.

Fiona Crascall – Headteacher

Ash Cartwright and Kelsey (Aided) Primary School