

## Report from Headteacher to Parish Council – April 2023

We have had another successful year in our school with a rich and balanced curriculum – lots of trips for the children – they have visited Harry Potter in London, the Science Museum in London, Margate Caves, Dover Castle and a group even went to Charlton Athletic football club to watch a game. For many of our children, school is the only way to access some of these experiences. The children start each day by running or walking in our 'daily mile'. We have made sure that the children have lots of themed weeks such as; children's mental health week, diversity week, maths week, anti-bullying week, book week and a 'wow' creative week. The school continues to employ a play therapist to ensure that all our children are in the very best frame of mind to enjoy their education.

We continue to benefit enormously with generous donations from local charities – in this respect we feel very blessed. School budgets are squeezed ever tighter and this is our biggest challenge in school. We simply have no money to improve our school environment from existing budgets. In January 2023, Jack Foat came to open our brand new all-weather MUGA pitch for the children that was mainly funded by them. This generous donation was topped up by 2 of our teachers completing the Three Peaks Challenge and our Chair of Governors completing the Virtual London Marathon. This is used as a designated sports provision/football facility and the children love this space. Real community spirit in evidence to ensure that this project was funded and completed. This year Jack Foat are funding an outdoor climbing wall for the children, concreted permanent basketball nets and a dedicated outdoor chill/reading space to be used at break times. Such fabulous generosity.

Cartwright, Godfrey and Kelsey donated funds to ensure that our year 6 children can afford to attend their year 6 residential trip to PGL in East Sussex. This will take place in June 2023. CGK also funded our Accelerated Reader programme for the next 5 years – they initially purchased this for the school in 2018. This has been hugely successful and the children have really benefitted from the programme. Funding from the local Co-op enabled us to have our faded playground markings re-done and these have provided additional outdoor learning games for the children. 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 a spelling bee, cross country, dodgeball, football matches and a reading challenge.

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. The new housing developments are bringing in more children and our numbers are creeping up – we hope to secure the Section 106 funding that new developments can bring to the local area – we are working with Ash Parish Council and Dover District Council to make sure that we secure this funding to future proof our school and expand our toilets and school library. We need to make sure that in the future, section 106 funding is allocated to the local area so that local residents see the benefits.

Please do ring the school to arrange a visit if you would like to see our learning environments and the improvements that local charities have made happen.

**Fiona Crascall – Headteacher**

**Ash Cartwright and Kelsey (Aided) Primary School**