

## **Knightlow School Report for the Parish Council AGM 2018**

It is a great pleasure to present this brief report from Knightlow Primary School.

The school continues to be full with pupils waiting for places in all years. The Reception class for Sept 2018 is also full with a waiting list. Whilst the school is oversubscribed, all applications from the catchment area (Bourton, Frankton, Marton, Princethorpe and Stretton-on-Dunsmore) are currently able to be accommodated.

Staffing changes include Mrs Duckett beginning maternity leave at Easter. Mrs Vivian is covering this post and has been working with Mrs Duckett prior to the holiday to become familiar with the class, and Miss Mohacsi moving to a secondary school teaching post at Christmas. Her post is being covered by the deputy head Mrs Brown with Mrs Hughes taking the class on Wednesday afternoons. The school has budgeted to continue employing teaching assistants in every year. This has been an area of severe cutback in many schools due to lack of funding but Knightlow is endeavouring to maintain this vital resource.

Two new governors have joined in the last year, Alec Ross Foundation governor for Stretton and Kyrone Dodd Foundation governor for Marton. The governing body is currently operating at its full strength of 12 members. It has a broad range of skills and experience, and regularly monitors its development needs, governance skills and monitoring and evaluation impact. There are likely to be Foundation Governor and parent vacancies within the next 1 to 2 years and the governing body is keen to continue to attract new people with relevant skills to volunteer for this challenging and rewarding role.

Thus the school is enormously grateful to the Parish Council, Stretton Charities and the Knightlow School Association for grants and fundraising to augment the local authority school funding. We would like to thank the Parish Council for a generous grant allowing the cost of swimming lessons and transport costs to the pool to be reduced for participating pupils. Learning to swim is such a vital life skill that this is certainly money very well spent.

The school has been extremely grateful to Stretton Charities for their generous grants to the school. These have enabled the County Music Service programmes for whole class music to be secured, the annual Artsmark fee to be paid, ICT teaching resources to be bought, a library database software programme to be purchased, visitors to school on such varied themes as the Stone Age and Falconry to be paid for, outside furniture and plants and landscaping materials to be purchased amongst others.

The Knightlow School Association continues to raise significant funds for the school and a Groundforce day completed many jobs around the school and grounds. The KSA meets regularly at 8pm on a Tuesday evening and is a friendly and open group of parents. The KSA is always looking for additional parents and carers to assist in fundraising and supporting events held in the school. The commitment doesn't need to be large and people can help at single events or take a more active role in the organisation which is very rewarding.

Knightlow remains a happy, vibrant learning environment with pupils achieving excellent SATS results but not to the exclusion of experiences to enable them to develop into healthy and well-rounded individuals. The latter include residential experiences, overnight stays, and many visits to places of interest and productions and a great number of visitors to speak, lead sports or arts

experiences. The school remains very grateful to the parents and other villagers who regularly visit the school to hear pupils read, do craft work, accompany trips or give extension lessons in maths.

In November the school had a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This examines

- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective is the Religious Education?
- How effective are the leadership and management of the school.

I am pleased to report the school achieved an Outstanding grading in every area.

The school continues to have close links with the Church community and continues to feel blessed by the time and commitment of Rev Ali, Douglas Hutchinson and Karen Armbrister who regularly lead worship and lead Christian experience days on special occasions. The school also thanks the Benefice churches for funding the holding crosses and bibles distributed to all pupils at the school.

I would like to close by saying a big thank you to the village for its help and support. I think that from the above everyone can see that without this the school would be a much poorer learning environment for our young people.

VKD April 2018