

Parish Council Report

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 including Reception for Sept 21017. Staffing remains stable with the exception of the resignation of Mrs Pettifer after 6 years at the school. Mr Tim Gillespie will fill this post in Sept.

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 or do craft work.

The school continues to have close links with the Church community and feels blessed by the arrival of Rev Ali who has quickly become part of the Knightlow family. The school thanks the Benefice churches for funding the holding crosses and bibles distributed to all pupils at the school.

The largest problem facing Knightlow, in line with all other schools is a lack of funding. The school tries really hard to economise and keep costs to a minimum whilst not compromising the education and wellbeing of the staff or pupils. It is true the government is spending more on education but there are more pupils to be educated with the funds and more pupils with complex educational needs in the educational sector as a whole. The initiative to spread funds more fairly amongst local authorities resulted in Knightlow expecting to receive 1.4% more in its budget. This was immediately offset, in fact before the money arrived an increase in top slicing by Warks LA to cover central costs by.....1.4%!

Major educational changes have been introduced by national government without any increase in funding. Changes such as a whole new curriculum including computing which needs resourcing being one example.

The school has been extremely grateful to Stretton Charities for their generous grants to the school. Two examples include a grant for a new canopy to allow outside play in inclement weather being one. SC funded the purchase of the canopy but a band of parents supplied all the labour without payment. A further grant allowed the library to be well stocked with attractive books to encourage reading and to support the curriculum. This initiative was greatly helped by a parent obtaining a 50% discount from a major publishing house for whom she worked.

Thus as you can see we do not expect all to be given. The Knightlow family works hard to support the school and take advantage of any opportunities on offer. Thus I will close by saying thank you to the village for its help and support and to ask that this continues to make the school into the best learning environment it can possibly be for the young people attending.