

Creting St Mary CEVAP School
Report from Marianne Brame – Chair of Governors.

Creting St Mary CEVAP provides a primary education for the children of Creting St Mary and the surrounding area. It is built around Christian values where everyone is welcomed, respected and encouraged to use their God-given gifts with the school's vision including the passage "Anything is Possible" taken from Mark 9 v 13. We currently have 99 children enrolled at the school. Each year has an intake of up to 15 children and after the reception year the children are taught in classes with 2 year groups.

With Covid restrictions behind us, the school has returned to a usual way of working. In line with other schools, post Covid saw some heightened levels of anxiety in the early part of the year, but the school has measures in place to support both staff and pupils. During the winter term there was just 1 day when there was a full complement of staff as the effects of Covid and other illness were being felt. However, the strength of the school's planning and teamwork, led by Head Teacher Mrs Friar, ensured that there was no detrimental impact to the pupils.

In September, the school marked the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The queue for the lying in state and funeral procession were discussed with the children and each pupil and member of staff tolled the school bell as a mark of respect.

Despite the current cost-of-living challenges the children and their families have continued to support the Stowmarket Food Bank with generous donations at Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter.

School residential trips have resumed with Y5 and Y6 going to Herefordshire in October and the Y3/4 visit to Thorpe Woodlands taking place the w/c 9th May. The trips help pupils gain independence from home, develop self-sufficiency and enable personal development and team building. The children are able to take part in outdoor and adventure activities as well as developing practical skills. Without the dedication and good will of staff staying on site with the classes these visits would not be possible.

The school has marked the coronation of King Charles III with the children learning about the new coinage and stamps, the new royal cypher as well as learning to sing God Save The King. The culmination of this activity was on 5th May when staff and pupils dressed in red white and blue and held a day of activities centred around the coronation.

This summer term has seen the school focus on key Aims and Values with those set for this term being Perseverance and Wisdom. We have been able to hold a number of services in the church and a particularly poignant event was the service held on Remembrance Day at the War Memorial in the churchyard.

The schools' website is kept fully up to date and is a great source of information on what is on so please visit the webpage and join us for the Summer Fayre on 23rd June.

The building of a significant number of houses in the village is likely to have an impact on the school. To best help the school support the children who move into the area, we would welcome the council requesting that 106 funding be put in place for all future large scale planning applications.

The school would like to thank the Creting St Mary Welfare Fund which supported one of the pupils.

We welcome offers of support and help from the wider community in Creting St Mary, please contact Christine Friar if you feel you would like to contribute.