

Report from Marianne Brame – Chair of Governors.

Creeting St Mary CEVAP School provides a primary education for the children of Creeting 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 of "Anything is Possible", taken from Mark 9 v 13. We currently have 97 children enrolled at the school with an intake of 15 children into reception each year. The school continues to offer breakfast club and afterschool clubs such as chess, handbells, recorder and sports.

With a Good OFSTED rating and very positive comments received from the parent body, the school continues to thrive and is oversubscribed for the reception intake in September. This is particularly pleasing as it bucks the current national downward trend in admissions which has seen many schools having to make some tough decisions. Not only are the admissions figures good news for the school, but it's very positive for our village and the local area to have such a valuable community asset embedded in village life.

The school's connection to the Church is strong with regular services taken in school by Rev. Philip Payne and Rev. Helen Norris as well as support from other local Christian organisations such as The Faith Mission. A number of services have been held in Church too with thoughtful worship devised by the children. We enjoy great support from parents, villagers and members of the church community and everyone is welcome to join the school for the Family Eucharist on Tuesday 21st May at 9.15am.

At the end of the Christmas term we said goodbye to the Reception teacher, Mrs Faulkner, who retired after many years of service at the school. Mrs Friar, the headteacher, was able to appoint a new teacher in a timely fashion to ensure full teaching cover was maintained.

To support the core values, Courageous Advocacy is being encouraged in the school. This refers to those who support, champion and speak up for a cause that is important and meaningful to them. Courage is needed to persevere and stand up for something or someone you believe in, to make a difference.

The school continues to have close ties with the village and local areas. Despite the continuing pressure on budgets, the school family has supported the Stowmarket Food Bank with donations at Christmas and also collected Easter Eggs to pass on to those less fortunate. The school is grateful for the support of the village, with the Christmas Fair being a particular success and we welcome all members of the local community to join in with public events. If the Parish Council has initiatives that they would like the school to support please get in touch with Mrs Friar.

There has been success in recent sports fixtures with the school coming first and second in a recent local hockey tournament and the summer term has started well with the first cricket win of the season.

The school would like to thank The Creeting St Mary Social Club for their support of disadvantaged families at Christmas.

With recent retirements from the governing body the school has 1 governor post to fill. If anyone would like to find out what is involved in the role, please contact me via the school office. We are particularly keen to hear from people with premises knowledge to complement current skills, but would welcome interest from anyone with a desire to support our younger generation.