

Great Dunham Primary School: Annual report from Governors

Number on roll: 82 (April 2015)

We welcomed Mrs Sharon Nour as our new head teacher in September 2014, the start of the new school year. Sharon quickly settled in and has become a very effective head teacher, with noticeable improvements right from the start. We also had three trainee teachers, over the year, Miss Tucker, Miss Allen and Miss Skinner and a new parent Governor, Mrs Kim Whitlock.

The school continues to be very popular and we have a cohort of 8 starters joining us in September 2015, keeping our number to around 80. Recently, we had a parent's questionnaire, and had a very favourable response. Highlights of the year included:

- Introduction of Read Write Inc., which has had a major impact on children's love of reading
- Visits to Fransham Forge, the Theatre Royal and the Ancient times museum amongst other places
- We are a small school with a big heart; our children have raised funds for McMillan Cancer Support, the Foodbank, the Royal British Legion (poppy day), Water Aid and Comic Relief

We were visited by OFSTED last July, and the report is attached. Once again, we achieved a good report, which is a credit to all the staff and the children. The head teacher and governors are now working on areas for further improvement, and our vision is to become an outstanding school.

The popularity of the school does put pressure on our resources, especially buildings. In particular, our ageing portacabin needs replacing. The Friends of Dunham School work hard to raise funds to enhance our children's learning experience, and are developing plans for a new classroom. We greatly appreciate any help in our fundraising from the community.

Small schools in Norfolk are encouraged to form partnerships to share best practise and provide greater resilience to change. We have begun to discuss the possibilities for partnering and federation and how these could strengthen the position of the school and learning outcomes for our children. At Great Dunham, we already have strong links through the Litcham Learning Community, though we are not planning any formal partnerships at present.

All schools in the Litcham Learning Community are trialling early transition to high school towards the end of the summer term. This follows consultation with parents and a successful pilot at Litcham in 2014, with pupils demonstrating accelerated progress at the start of the Autumn term. We will monitor this to ensure the best outcome for our children.

Dr. Christopher Ridout

Chair of Governors, Great Dunham Primary School

