



Sparsholt Cof E Primary School Report – April 2021.

Whilst the last year has been challenging for the whole school community due to lockdowns including partial school closures, teachers having to produce remote education for their classes, staff pupils and parents having to get used to the introduction of protocols and procedures to try to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19, on the whole we have had a very positive year.

When the country locked down in March 2020, the school remained open (including through the Easter holidays) for the children of critical workers and any pupils who were deemed vulnerable. The school provided remote education for the pupils who remained at home.

In June, the school was allowed to welcome back pupils from Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 along with more pupils who were children of critical workers as the criteria for those who could attend was expanded. Due to space constraints, (the Government limited class sizes to 15) whilst we were only able to welcome back our other year groups for a day before the end of the Summer Term, this did give them the opportunity to reconnect with the school, their classmates and their teachers.

In September 2020, we were able to welcome back all of our pupils to the school. Due to the requirements to limit mixing, the school has been operating a bubble system. Children have been only allowed to mix with other children from their class. Due to this, we have had staggered start and finish times for pupils, separate break and lunchtimes (with children eating in their classrooms) and tried to reduce staff crossing bubbles. As a school, our protocols (including enhanced cleaning, hygiene etc.) were robust and we did not have to send any pupils home due to Covid related issues unlike many other schools.

Despite the limitations that the Covid safe protocols created, we have ensured that the children continue to feel like a whole community and have continued with our courageous advocacy activities. The children have raised over £1500 for a variety of local, national and international charities and collected substantial donations in the form of provisions for the Winchester Basics Bank and the Winchester Night Shelter.

The school have continued to ensure that they have maintained strong and meaningful links with St Stephen's church and the Pupil worship team have pre-recorded their own whole school worships which have been played to all the children across the school and collaborated with the Benefice (Rev'd Jax and the Foundation Governor, Sally Wesley) in services such as the Christmas and Mothering Day service. Despite the children not being able to gather as a whole school, class worship is taking place on a daily basis and the children still very connected as a church school community.

Having had the children back in school for one day on the 4th January, schools closed again due to the National lockdown. During this period the school had 42 children who attended school either part-time or fulltime due to falling within the Government's category of

vulnerable or being the children of critical workers. The school have 134 children currently on roll so this equated to 31% of our pupils. During this period, teachers worked at school supporting the pupils who were attending school whilst simultaneously providing daily remote education for the children studying at home including targeted interventions for pupils on the SEN register who were working both at home and at school. On the 8th March children were able to return to school and the school had 100% attendance.

Since the 8th March, children have again been taught in bubbles with staggered start and finish times, and separate break and lunchtimes to limit any risk of transmission.

When we return after the Easter break on the 19th April, the same protocols will be in place but we will now be able to offer after school clubs including football, lacrosse, outdoor choir and gymnastics. We will also be able to again make use of the school field for break and lunchtimes now that the weather has improved.

Through this whole period, the school have been mindful of the staff's and children's wellbeing and have introduced the Sparsholt Wheel of Wellbeing which has five spokes: People – connect and give; Body - be active; Spirit – take notice; Planet – show care; and Inspire – be creative. Teachers ensure that an aspect of this is focused on each day. Through the Summer term we have also employed additional sports coaches to ensure that the children have an opportunity to experience a multitude of sporting activities that they were unable to access during the Spring term.

In terms of the school site, the field now has new fencing along the back and around the pond area which has ensured it is now safer and more secure. The soakaway in the car park has now been installed which should ensure there is a reduced risk of flooding to the school allowing the removal of the sandbags in the entrance area and the vents for the cesspit under the playground have now been repositioned allowing the children to be able to access this area fully.

For the Summer term, and now that restrictions have been lifted regarding groups of people meeting outside, the school are aiming to reinvigorate the Pond area by asking for volunteers to help clear the pond area, build seating and fundraise for a covered shelter.

As restrictions continue to ease, we are hopeful that we will be able to reintroduce or be involved with many of the amazing community events that have helped ensure the school remains an important part of the Sparsholt, Littleton and Crawley communities.