

**Parish Council Meeting
Sparsholt C of E Primary School**

Wednesday 26th April 2017

The previous 12 months have been a busy time in education. May 2016 saw the first year of the new, more challenging tests for our Year 6 pupils. It was also the first year where pupil progress was no longer reported as a level and the new language of children meeting age related expectations or working at greater depth was used. I am pleased to report that, even with the higher expectations, our children were still successful and results were above national figures in all areas. We have continued to focus our efforts in school on securing good progress for all our children in school and the Year 6s will be sitting their tests the week beginning 8th May.

We have also focused on improving our school environment. With budgets tight, we secured staff and governors help with decorating the inside of the school building. We have also managed to complete the refurbishment of 4 out of the 5 classrooms, with new carpets, blinds and furniture. The interior of our building is now a vibrant, learning space.

The refurbishment project has now been extended to the school playground, where equipment was coming to the end of its useful life and needed replacing. The whole school community has been involved in the design and fundraising for the project. Once the project is completed, we will have a quiet seating area for the children, an astroturf all weather ball games area, a playground space and a range of climbing equipment for the children to use. During the Easter break we completed Phase one of the project which is the quiet seating area and the games pitch. The whole playground project is being funded by the Friends of Sparsholt School and the parents have worked incredibly hard to raise the funds for the completion of the first phase. FOSS are now in the process of fundraising for the physical play equipment area with a range of events happening during the summer term. We are so fortunate to have such a resourceful, committed parent body who go above and beyond to provide the best for our children and we hope that will raise enough funds to complete the project by the end of the summer term.

As I am sure you are all aware, the removal of the trees on the playing field has also been completed. This has enabled us to retain the lease. We are waiting to hear from the Hampshire Grounds Maintenance Team regarding the next phase of the works to make what was the woodland area into a useable space for the children.

Finally, after 3 and a half happy years, I will be leaving Sparsholt at the end of the summer. It has been a privilege to be part of the Sparsholt community and to lead such a successful school. Thank you for all your support.