

# STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bar Lane Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5BJ

Part of Anglian Learning MAT

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## Stapleford Community Primary School

### Headteacher's and governors' report to Parish Council April 2018

#### Overview

We currently have 199 pupils on roll, just 11 pupils under full capacity, and several classes are full. The Reception class for 2017-18 was oversubscribed, with a substantial waiting list.

We have seven classes and eight teachers, plus a dedicated SENCo position. We have a ninth qualified teacher on staff to cover PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time, and a team of 13 teaching assistants to support learning and teaching.

We also have a team of eight support staff who work in the school office and as midday supervisors. A team of seven staff run and work in the Stapleford Out of School Club (SOOSC).

#### Our Vision and Values

Our vision and values shape everything we do. At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, we revised these statements after gathering the thoughts of pupils, parents, staff, governors and members of the community about what you value most about your local school.

**Our vision** for Stapleford Community Primary School is to inspire every child to love learning and aspire to do their best.

#### Our values

We are a safe, happy and welcoming school

We respect each other and the world around us

We challenge and support each other to do our very best

We find exciting ways to discover our local community and the wider world

#### Learning and teaching and school performance

The key areas of focus for school improvement in the 2017-18 academic year include vulnerable groups of learners in the school, increasing progress and raising attainment in writing and maths, further developing and enrich our curriculum, and further supporting personal development, behaviour and welfare.

Comparative primary school performance data for the 2016-17 academic year was released in December 2017, and is shared on the school website at

<http://www.staplefordprimaryschool.org/performance-data/>.



## **Finance and fundraising**

This is a time of great pressures on schools nationally – both financial and political – as reflected in local and national media. The school leaders and governing body have worked hard to ensure that our budget is well-managed and there is no immediate threat to the school. However, funding cuts do have an impact in terms of what we can spend on new projects and on the maintenance of the school grounds and facilities. This is why we are so grateful to the community for all their support.

We have an amazing Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTA) who have raised £5780 so far this year. We thank all the members of the local community who have supported PTA events. We have also felt well supported by community groups including St Andrew's Church and were touched that the Community Café and local choir both donated funds to the school.

This year PTA funding has already been used for a huge range of things, including a whole-school subscription to a Maths homework and games website, and to subsidise transport for school trips. A big project is now underway to use PTA funds to carry out much-needed improvements to our outdoor learning and play spaces.

The PTA have arranged a school action day on Saturday 12 May, from 12-5pm, and would welcome anyone who is willing to volunteer their time/skills to help spruce up the school. This could include painting, building something for the children, doing a spot of gardening etc. We would welcome help in spreading the word in the community.

## **Community links**

- Community governors are central to our local governing body (<http://www.staplefordprimaryschool.org/meet-the-governors/>)
- Community involvement in school events e.g. The Big Bounce, Christmas Gift Fair, Quiz Night and Summer Fete, and school involvement in community events e.g. the Village Weekend
- Services at St Andrew's Church, and assemblies led by the Parish Priest
- Use of the school field and facilities by local community groups including Brownies, Gym Club, Stapleford Choral Society, the Umbrella Big Band and Shelford and Stapleford Strikers
- Working with local residents as volunteers in school e.g. for our bridge building project
- Learning walks through the village, focussed on local history and the environment
- The annual PTA fun on Magog Down
- Fundraising via the Co-op Shelford, organized by our PTA, which raised an incredible £1563 for the school

We have been looking at ways to communicate regularly with the Parish Council following a useful meeting in the Autumn term. Our monthly Headteachers' newsletters and termly Governors' newsletters are displayed on our noticeboard at the front of the school and are available on our school website. We continue to share Parish Council news via Parentmail, including the recent call for new councillors.

Two large trees were removed from the school field in response to complaints from residents, and four trees have been planted to take their places. The species has been chosen to not cause the same problems with size and spread.

We are very keen to involve more local residents in the life of the school, both as volunteer helpers (e.g. with gardening) and in paid breaktime / lunchtime supervisor roles. We thank the Parish Council for any help you can give in spreading the word.

Safeguarding our children is our number one priority, and any community volunteers working with children, or groups using school facilities during school hours, require a basic Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This is easy to arrange via the school office.

### **Anglian Learning**

In the autumn term, we consulted on becoming an Academy and joining the Anglian Learning Multi-Academy Trust. In March 2018, we formally became an academy and joined the Anglian Learning Multi-Academy Trust. Both staff and governors are excited about this new chapter for the school.

Anglian Learning is very keen to work to keep schools established within their local communities and to ensure the needs of those communities are met.

The school is already working very closely with the Primary Executive Headteacher Mrs Prue Raynor. Prue has a wealth of experience both as a primary headteacher and as a senior Her Majesty's Inspector with Ofsted. Prue would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to share more of the work of Anglian Learning if the Parish Council would see it as beneficial.

### **Governance**

In the last year, our governing body has welcomed Kate Jessop, a member of the local community, to our team. Clare Arthurs stepped down as Chair of Governors after three years, and Isabel Thomas was elected as the new Chair. Dr Francesca Crawley and Paul Izzett are the new Vice Chairs.

### **Successes we are celebrating**

This includes the many ways that our pupils achieve and excel that are not recorded by statutory tests, including in music, sport and art. Successes in the last year include:

- Achieving the School Games 'Gold' Mark, recognising our commitment to excellent sports provision at Stapleford school.
- Our science/arts week, which included visits from three authors and illustrators.
- Our pupils have continued to excel in regional and national challenges, making the final of the county maths challenge, coming second in the county English challenge, and bringing back gold medals from county sporting events.
- This month, not one, not two, but three of our pupils were shortlisted in the BBC's 500 Words story writing competition, from among 140,000 entries nationwide.
- Stapleford Out of School Club was successfully transferred to school management in 2017 and capacity increased from 20 to 40 places.
- We are working towards an Artsmark award, to recognize and celebrate the importance of the arts at Stapleford. We are proud offer pupils a broad and balanced education.

### **Challenges**

We would like to continue to expand before- and after-school provision at Stapleford, following the transfer of SOOSC to school management. One challenge is a lack of space beyond the classrooms. We know how vital wraparound care is to support local families, and we have big ambitions. We established a Community Task Force to focus on fundraising and would welcome new members and local support.

Following the closure of Sunnyside Preschool Playgroup in 2017, which rented space at the school, we have been talking to residents about the demand for preschool and nursery childcare in the area. The

school is keen to respond to the demand for high-quality provision in Stapleford and we are establishing a Task Force to look specifically at the potential for opening a pre-school or nursery as part of the school.

An increase in pupil numbers over the past two years has put pressure on traffic in front of the school, leading to concerns from residents and concerns about road safety. On some occasions, the local police have been informed. We are trying to work closely with the Parish Council to find solutions.

Christine Spain  
Headteacher

Isabel Thomas  
Chair of Governors

April 2018