



St Lawrence C.E. Primary School



2022 – 2023

This report is my first as the new Headteacher at St. Lawrence C.E. Primary School having taken over from Mrs Saunders just under three weeks ago. I would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff for such a warm 'St. Lawrence Welcome' and I'm delighted to be able to lead a school with such a warm sense of community and identity. I've been immediately struck by the way the children treat each other and by how passionate the whole community is to ensure every child achieves their best in all areas of school life; it's a wonderful place to work and learn. Mrs Saunders has left a school in good heart and with wonderful staff and I very much look forward to working with the whole St. Lawrence community in the future.

I shall try and summarise some of what has happened this year in various areas of school life:

Music

St. Lawrence is rightly known for the quality and quantity of its music making. Lots of visiting music teachers support the class music and there are countless opportunities for the children to perform both in and out of school. Last term the KS2 children performed at the Pamoja Hall in Sevenoaks School. It was a fantastic



opportunity for the children to work together as a team and produced some really fabulous musical performances: we were all very proud. The school orchestra also has been busy performing at end of term services and concerts. Last term Guy Saunders, who has conducted the orchestra for over 20 years, retired from the position. We'd all like to thank him for so many years of wonderful service and to wish him well in his retirement. The orchestra continues under the direction of Mrs Jefferies who is very well known to the school, having taught music here for many years.



Sport



Another huge strength of the school is the range and quality of sporting activities the children are involved with. We are very fortunate to have a specialist sports teacher in school once a week who is ably supported by the school staff to deliver engaging PE lessons in many different sports and disciplines. We also have a

number of sports teams who have competed in a number of different cup and league competitions. Our netball team remained unbeaten throughout the whole season and our football team have had huge success against local schools in their league matches. The children have also competed in swimming, basketball and athletics as well as taking part in a 'Love2Dance' event at The STAG Theatre. They have always represented the school with great passion and pride and it's wonderful to be able to give the children so many sporting experiences throughout the year.



STEM Week

STEM Week was a great success with the highlight being a Kapla workshop. The workshops are completely new and unique to the UK and focus on maths, science concepts, design, art, engineering, fine motor skills, perseverance, resilience, teamwork, cooperation, concentration, listening skills, problem solving, logic and imagination. By working together, the children create a work of art in the form of a monumental exhibition. It brings a huge self esteem boost across all ages. The engineering skills that the children learned using simple wooden bricks was astounding.



Summer Production



In the summer term the school put on a wonderful production of Matilda. This event involved the whole school and was at the height of the heatwave which presented some challenges. However, the school community was amazing, producing air conditioning units, fans and iced drinks for the children. The first performance of the show went on without a murmur of complaint from children or staff (something which our sound technician could not believe!). The second performance was postponed by 24 hours and much more comfortable. It was a truly powerful show: a story of a small person standing up to injustice and changing her own destiny and that of others. A message which reflects our 'Order of the Acorn'. It's so important to be able to give children to opportunity to perform on a stage and thanks go to all the staff, parents and technicians who made this possible.

Community Involvement and Fundraising



Children in Distress – This is the charity that we have supported over several years by collecting Christmas Shoeboxes. Mrs Saunders was invited to the Romanian Embassy in London to a reception for HRH Princess Maria of Romania who is Patron of this charity; you may remember that she visited St Lawrence School in 2019. She spoke so warmly of her visit and clearly remembers her day at 'the school with the purple uniform' with great fondness. The charity is embarking on a new project to build a complex where families with disabled children can go on holiday, something which is not available in Romania. **Odd socks day** – On March 21st we invited the children to wear odd socks to raise funds and to raise awareness of children with Downs Syndrome. **Bluebell Walk** –

Our Annual Bluebell Walk was a huge success despite the appalling rain. Over 60 people joined in with the walk and raised money for the school in the process. Thank you to all who braved the weather to attend this year. **Interview with the Times and SKY TV** – Much to our surprise, we found ourselves hitting the national press...twice in one week. The Times Newspaper got in touch and wanted to interview our young bellringers because they were doing a piece on the shortage of ringers for the King's Coronation. We made the cut and were on page 7. But it didn't stop there. The next day, which was a Saturday, we were contacted by SKY News and Mrs Saunders had just under an hour to pull together a band of young ringers to be filmed and interviewed for SKY News. We did it! We were somewhat apprehensive, because we had no idea what angle they would take and what would be broadcast, but we needn't have worried because it was a delightful report. Flo (year 5) interviewed really well and the report went out twice on SKY TV on Saturday evening!



Coronation

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a day of Coronation Celebration on Friday 5th May. Throughout the day the children will be enjoying sessions of art, craft and sporting activities; all with a royal theme! There will be a street party at lunchtime and the bell ringing club will also complete a 'Ring for the King' at 3.15pm. The children will be dressed up for the occasion and we hope it will be a memorable occasion for all concerned.



And Finally...

It's impossible to capture everything that goes on in the school in a Newsletter. If you would like to see for yourself what happens here then please do get in touch. I'd be delighted to meet with you and show you around our wonderful school. Mr Daniel Eaton

