Ludham Primary School and Nursery

Annual Report to the Parish 2023

At present the school has 97 children on Roll with another 13 in the Nursery. The number of pupils in the school has increased by 9 since February. We are fortunate that after some negotiation with the LA our yearly intake will remain at 15 and not be reduced to 10 as had been suggested due to a fall in pupil numbers across the county.

Since January of this year (2023) the nursery has been offering full day places (8.45 – 3.15) for children from the age of 3. This has led to an increase in numbers as it caters for working parents.

The Headteacher who was appointed in Jan 22 has been working hard to increase the number of pupils on roll and one of the initiatives undertaken is to introduce Forest School as part of our curriculum. This involves the children taking part in outside activities and learning to not only enhance their learning experience but to help their mental health and wellbeing. The Headteacher has been fully trained and a number of staff have taken part in training on Saturday mornings for several months. This investment in teaching and learning will take time to impact across the school and will be closely monitored by governors.

The staffing within school has been challenging over the year with members of staff leaving, long term sickness and a return from maternity leave but it is hoped that from September this will become more settled.

One of the biggest challenges has been the financial situation and the impact of increased gas and electric charges. Although along with everyone else the charges have been capped there has been no addition funding given to schools to cover increases. To this end the school budget for 23/24 was in deficit for this year. Energy costs alone were set at £24,000. However, we were able to avoid losing staff due to a kind donation from Womack Trust (£2,000 for educational resources) and another charity within the village (£3,600 for energy costs), and a donation from Ludham Wives (£500) for which we are extremely grateful.

The school PTFA are also fundraising to support the school with a family fun day in June a Dragon Trail in the summer and other planned events for the year. The Governors, Headteacher and staff are grateful for their continued efforts.

The Governing Board meet every half term to discuss school matters and at this time there are no vacancies. There are 11 members – 4 parent governors (elected by the parents), 1 Local Authority, 4 co-opted community governors, 1 staff member and the Head Teacher. We also have an accredited Clerk to the Board of governors.

Next year will see the 150th anniversary of the school and it is hoped that there will be an open day or week and celebration to commemorate the occasion involving past and present pupils and the wider community of the village.

Carol Willoughby

Chair of governors

Ludham Primary School