

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Pavilion  
on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 at 7.00pm**

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Dunton Green's Annual Parish Meeting, confirming that there is a legal requirement for an Annual Parish Meeting to be held and that there has been an APM in Dunton Green for well over a century now. The Chairman informed attendees that representatives of the Parish Council, the District Council, the Police, the School and Sevenoaks District Council were present and that hard copies of their reports were provided. As a result, an evening of long speeches was not anticipated. Members of the public were encouraged to address general questions about the reports as the meeting progressed but to keep questions about specific issues to after the meeting when there would be ample opportunity at the Parish Reception to talk directly with all the representatives.

**2. Present**

Freda England (Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council & of the APM), Kathryn Bone (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Yulia La Kruz (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Sevenoaks District Councillor Kim Bayley (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead), PCSO Amy Hardy (Kent Police), PS Pete Ballard (Kent Police), Sarah Brown (Chairman of the Governing Body Dunton Green Primary School), Mrs Jemma White (Teacher Dunton Green Primary School), Tracy Godden (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 35 members of the Public (including three Parish Councillors), Sevenoaks District Councillor Cameron Brown (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead),

**Apologies for Absence**

Kent County Councillor Nick Chard (Member for Sevenoaks West). Tracey Boanas (Headteacher Dunton Green Primary School),

**3. Minutes of 2017 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the March 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were approved. Proposed - Mr. Fox, Seconded - Mrs. Brown and Agreed.

**4. Matters Arising**

None.

**5. Annual Report of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council's Annual Report for 2017/2018 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

There were no questions.

**6. Community Development SDC**

The Community Development Report for 2017/2018 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

There were no questions.

**7. County Councillor, Nick Chard**

Unfortunately, Cllr Chard was unable to attend the meeting. A report for 2017/2018 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached. The Clerk advised those

present that contact details for Cllr. Chard were contained within the report should anyone have any issues that they might wish to raise with KCC

**8. District Councillor, Cameron Brown**

Cllrs. Brown and Bayley had provided a detailed joint report for 2017/2018; a copy of the report is /attached.

There were no questions.

**9. Kent Police**

A report from Kent Police regarding the 2017/2018 period was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

There were no questions.

**10. Dunton Green Primary School**

A detailed report for 2017/2018 had been submitted for the meeting by Mrs Tracey Boanas (Headteacher) and Mrs Sarah Brown (Chair of the Governing Body). Mrs Brown and Mrs Jemma White (teacher) were in attendance were happy to talk to residents after the close of the meeting.

There were no questions.

**11. Other Reports**

No other reports had been submitted for the meeting.

**12. Consideration of any resolutions for which notice has been given**

None

The meeting closed at 7.09pm

After the conclusion of the formal part of the evening, Cllr Mrs England talked about how the village needs people like those assembled who take the time to get involved and make Dunton Green a better place. The Chairman announced that it was her great pleasure to make a presentation on behalf of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards to Jean Woods *'with gratitude and in recognition of voluntary work quietly undertaken over many years, visiting the elderly & lonely, overseeing lunch clubs, coffee mornings & helping to bring the community together.'*

Everyone was then welcomed to enjoy refreshments and take the opportunity to talk with exhibitors and representatives of numerous groups, organisations and businesses.



# Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2017/18



We started the year with a new Chairman, Cllr. Freda England, as Cllr. Ian Bayley moved to Wiltshire with our thanks and best wishes. Cllr. Paul Lockley filled the Vice Chairman post. Cllr. Robin Piper stepped down and we welcomed Cllr. Tim Fox and Cllr. Annie Norton. Unfortunately, we finish the year with 3 vacancies and welcome all enquires.

Our District Councillors Cameron Brown and Kim Bayley continue to support the Parish Council when they can. Our Kent County Councillor for a long time had been Cllr. Richard Parry but the elections in May introduced us to Cllr. Nick Chard who, in his first week in the job, had to deal with the diminishment of the north bound 402 bus service protests.

Over the past year we have launched our new website which now allows parishioners and others to receive several updates on news and events every week. It's now linked to our Facebook site too and Cllr. Anthony Carrol provides regular updates in the community news section of the Sevenoaks Chronicle.

Following very positive feedback we have continued to improve and increase the content of the quarterly Dunton Green News which is hand delivered to every household in the village thanks to Parish Councillors and a willing band of volunteers scattered through the village.

It now contains details of planning applications. Probably the most controversial one this year being the proposal of Berkeley Homes to build an additional 30+ flats on the Ryewood estate. We await SDC's planning department's decision. There have also been 3 new houses built elsewhere in the village. Although it's exciting to welcome newcomers, the lack of parking in certain key areas of Dunton Green continues to cause difficulties and DGPC will continue to insist that all future homes are built with adequate parking provision.

Reorganisation of the PCSO's means we now have 2 - Amy Hardy and Ellie Collins. With the installation of CCTV (part funded by SDC) on the recreation ground and an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera at the Pavilion car park, several incidents of anti-social behaviour have been dealt with. Speeding continues throughout the village and we are still seeking volunteers to run a much need Speedwatch group in Dunton Green. It is now possible to do the training on line and we can borrow the equipment from SDC or neighbouring parishes.

The Parish Council has continued to invest in improving facilities for parishioners. This year has seen new goalposts at Longford Meadow, new toilets in the Pavilion changing rooms, a large noticeboard on the Pavilion and floodlights for the MUGA and tennis court. With the introduction of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) now providing regular but unpredictable cash injections to the parish, it should be easier to fund future projects.

We've also continued helping keep the village clean and tidy with regular litter picks where the number of volunteers has gradually risen. The bulk freighter collections have been increased from 3 to 4 times a year to cope with demand. We regularly update KCC about potholes that need repairing, out of order lamp posts and public footpath problems.

As usual DGPC has run and helped fund village events. The annual fireworks, Christmas carols, village picnic and family fun day were all blessed with good weather this year. We really appreciate the work charitable organisations such as AgeUK and Faithworks have done for all ages.

We now have more sporting participants. Kick Kent, ladies' netball, street dance and some senior football. Our hirers provide a full range from Taekwondo, Pilates and boot camps. We still have spaces in the diary for more!

Summary 2016/2017 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Brought forward		59,171
ADD		
Annual Precept		90,000
Total other receipts		39,688
SUBTRACT		
Staff costs	35,755	
Total other costs	76,810	
Balances carried forward		76,274

Little of this would have been possible without the Parish Clerk who has worked in the village for over a decade and is the link to everything the Parish Council achieves.

Cllr Freda England  
Chairman Dunton Green Parish Council

21<sup>st</sup> March 2018



# **Dunton Green Community Development Officer**

## **Report for Annual Parish Meeting**

Please find below the highlights and key successes of the projects implemented by the Dunton Green Community Development Officers over the year.

### **Dunton Green Easy Netball – One Year On**

After considerable planning, recruitment of session facilitator, the Dunton Green Easy Netball was launched on 1st of March 2017. Sessions take place every Wednesday 6.30 – 7.30pm on the MUGA.

Key successes:

- 48 people have attended the sessions since they began. The age of attendees ranges from 16 to 57.
- 52% of all attendees live within the parish of Dunton Green.
- 24% of all the participants from Dunton Green live within the Ryewood Development.
- The group now has their own WhatsApp group to keep in touch.

### **Dunton Green Tai Chi**

As part of the focus on engaging with all the residents of Ryewood, Tai Chi taster sessions were offered on the Ryewood development in August. This was well attended and received overwhelmingly positive feedback for a session on a Sunday morning. The Community Development Officers liaised with various instructors. A suitable candidate was located and a business model drawn up. To ensure sustainability the Officers developed a phased approach of support. At the end of the 4-month period the classes are designed to be self-sufficient.

Tamz Tai Chi commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Sessions take place on Sundays 10am – 11am at Donnington Hall.

Key Successes

- The Community Development Officers were successful in an application to the KCC Small Funds application and were awarded £105 for publicity of the project.
- 14 people have participated in the first 3 sessions.
- 57% of attendees live within the parish of Dunton Green.

### **Youth Street Dance sessions**

Following the success of the Youth Diversionary Fund in 2015/2016, it was agreed that the dance element of the project would be continued. To ensure sustainability of the project the Community Development Officers recruited a local volunteer who was given full training and support. Street dance sessions were then planned and have taken place weekly since January 2017.

Key Successes:

- Over 24 young people have attended the Street Dance sessions.
- 46% of attendees live within the parish of Dunton Green.
- The young people performed at the Dunton Green Parish Council Picnic on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### **8-12's Project**

Launched in January 2017 in partnership with WK Communities, this project has been engaging with young people aged between 8 – 12 on a weekly basis.

Key successes:

- 25 young people have attended the project with the majority of the referrals coming from Dunton Green Primary School.
- The club has been a huge success with participants making new friends, growing in confidence and self-esteem.
- Participant's feedback is very positive. The young people have enjoyed trying new things which included taking part in a residential over the summer.

### **Supporting Partner Organisations**

Community Christmas Bazaar – Working in partnership with DG Primary School PTA the Community Development Officers supported their Christmas Bazaar on 2<sup>nd</sup> December to broaden the school's engagement in the community by funding and running a festive activity (ice skating) and to showcase the school to members of the wider community. The event was well attended with more than 210 residents taking part in the skating activity. The school had an opportunity to welcome some potential future parents as well as wider community supporters, District Councillors and District Chairman.

Dunton Green Parish Council – The Community Development Officers have also supported the Parish Council at their events and projects throughout the year, including their monthly film nights, Dunton Green Picnic, Christmas Carols and the village quiz project, which included delivering to every household in the Ryewood development over 2 days.

Wider Community Benefits – Alongside the projects outlined above, the Community Development Officers are engaging with residents creating links between organisations and projects where possible. Since interacting with our project, two residents have now become Parish Councillors and one in particular is now volunteering in two further projects in the community. We continue to support other projects set up by us including Older Peoples Lunch Club and the Over 55's Social Club.

## **Nick Chard's Report to Dunton Green Parish Council.**

My first local issue, after my successful election last May, was the proposed withdrawal of the 402 bus service by Arriva. The community's response was enormous; I had over 200 emails from concerned local residents, all of whom had an immediate personal response from me.

Some Dunton Green residents attended a public meeting I organised at Knockholt Village Hall to discuss the service withdrawal. I arranged for the managing director of Go-Coach and KCC's head of public transport to attend. They outlined the problem caused by the withdrawal of service by Arriva and they were able to reassure the public by outlining the replacement service by Go Coach.

This replacement bus service is in place and appreciated by those who rely on such a vital transport link.

One of the proposed savings in this year's KCC budget was the removal of a KCC subsidy to the 301 bus service. I had a number of emails from concerned residents and there was interest in the local media.

Fortunately my colleagues, after some frank and intense lobbying, agreed with me that such a saving should not be promoted, it wasn't.

I have several roles at KCC: I'm Chairman of KCC's Governance and Audit Committee and Vice Chairman of the Kent Superannuation Committee.

I'm Chairman of Kent Fire and Rescue Service. This is run by its own Authority which comprises 25 Members from KCC and Medway Unitary Councils.

I have worked with nearby Riverhead Parish Council in their resolve to improve the pedestrian crossings in Riverhead, improvements are on their way.

I have used some of my Member Grant to fund the on-street parking improvements in Cranmer Way and Shoreham Lane which were agreed at the last Joint Transportation Board. I have also commissioned speed counts in the Riverhead area as a precursor to addressing some local concerns which will impact Dunton Green residents.

It is an absolute pleasure being the County Councillor for Sevenoaks West, thank you for your continuing support and please feel free to approach me with local concerns.

Nick Chard                      March 2018  
Kent County Councillor, Sevenoaks West

[nick.chard@kent.gov.uk](mailto:nick.chard@kent.gov.uk)

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# Report of the District Councillors: Kim Bayley & Cameron Brown

## Introduction

- Both your Councillors have attended Full and other Council meetings during the year, as well as a number of informal meetings with Council departments and constituents on a variety of issues.
- It has sometimes been challenging to attend as many Parish Council meetings as we would have liked due to a large number of timing clashes but we hope we have been available to you via email and phone as needed.

## Council Tax In line with Inflation

- Your District Councillors supported the increase in council tax in line with inflation (2.97% or £6.03 for a band D house).
- As many of you may know, Sevenoaks District Council's support grant from the government has dramatically reduced in recent years, only offset by a positive investment strategy that has sought to maximise the investment returns on savings and borrowings, for the benefit of residents.
- As result of this and other cost savings, Sevenoaks District Council has been recognised nationally as an outstanding Council and was awarded Council of the Year in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

## Parking in Riverhead

- Following pressure from your local district Councillors and some consultation with local residents, Sevenoaks District Council commenced a full consultation in relation to parking in Riverhead. This included amendments to Chipstead lane, Cranmer road, Shoreham lane and London road. Details of the proposals were shown on plans.
- The Consultation ran from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The outcome will be reported to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board in due course.

## New Playground on Chipstead Common

- Your District Councillors have made representations in relation to the proposed development by Chevening Parish Council.
- Consideration is still being given to whether CPC is prevented from doing so by a restrictive covenant covering the land and whether it will require planning permission.

## Wickens Meadow

- We have attempted to address the concerns of residents in relation to the supply of gas by the owner of the site.

## Planning

- Planning applications across the district continue to run at quite high levels. Both your Councillors have reviewed a number of applications within the district.
- Your district Councillors continue to monitor any potential housing development in Dunton Green and Riverhead. Your Councillors appreciate the large number of new homes that have been built in Dunton Green in recent years, in addition to the development at Fort Halstead. We will strive to persuade the Council that other wards should take their fair share and no further large-scale developments should take place in either Riverhead or Dunton Green.

## Local Residents

We also met with a number of residents on planning, education and housing issues during the year.

## Cllr. Kim Bayley

- Kim sits on 2 Committees at SDC as well as being Deputy Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services (encompassing environmental and waste services as well as parking etc. She sits on the Finance Committee, with a particular focus on ensuring that the District Council can continue to deliver the current levels of services with a vastly reduced budget. As Deputy Chair on the Direct and Trading Services committee, she also has regular updates with the head of Environmental Services, the head of Parking etc.

## Finance Committee

- During the year Council budgets continued to be under pressure due to significant funding cuts by Government at a local level but the current performance indicators of SDC are positive and departments are performing well and targets are being met.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/news/article/6/sevenoaks\\_district\\_crowned\\_council\\_of\\_the\\_year](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/news/article/6/sevenoaks_district_crowned_council_of_the_year)

- Importantly the Council continued with its aim to become self-sufficient to deliver income to the Council and replace lost central government funding. During the year a number of property investments were made in the area with a return of at least 6% pa which should help deliver a sustainable and self-sufficient council going forwards. The Council also continues to share a number of functions with other Councils.

#### **Direct and Trading Services Committee**

- In relation to parking we were able to maintain parking fees in most car parks and apart from proposed changes to the Sunday charging mechanism most charges have remained the same.
- The car park construction in Bradbourne was completed and currently a new car park is being constructed at Buckhurst 2 with customers relocated to temporary and on street parking while construction is ongoing
- During the year we improved communication to residents on recycling and met targets on collections across the district. 2018 will see the introduction of a recycling app to help improve recycling rates

#### **Other**

Kim has also acted as a Governor of Dunton Green Primary School during the year and chairs the Lakeside Place Residents committee

#### **Cameron Brown Committees**

Cameron is a member of the CIL Board, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and sits on the Development Control/ Planning Committee.

#### **CIL Board**

- Cameron and Kim both sit on the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Board. The purpose of the Board is distribute funds to statutory bodies across the district, the funds having been obtained from a levy on substantial housing developments.<sup>2</sup>
- 25% of the funds are initially distributed to the proximate parish council, with the remainder to be distributed to those bodies who have applied to the Board for funds.
- Cameron is anxious for bodies within Dunton Green and Riverhead to apply for funding. If any resident can think of any scheme that would be worthy of funding they should contact him.

#### **Scrutiny Committee**

- Cameron took on the role of Chair in 2017 - 2018, taking over from Cllr London. Cameron is currently undertaking an in depth review into staff vacancies, staff retention and staff recruitment at Sevenoaks District Council. This is a particular issue for SDC and its staff, due to the high cost of housing in the area and the availability of better paid work in the private sector.
- During his year as Chair has supervised the rigorous questioning on cabinet members, ensuring Sevenoaks District Council is performing as it should. He also led questioning of other key stakeholders in the District, including staff at Pembury Hospital<sup>3</sup>, an update on the lending that SDC made to Scencio (at 6% per annum) and a review into the Council's property investment strategy (see above).

#### **Development/ Planning Committee**

- Cameron has attended a large number of planning meetings dealing with applications from across the district. The Committee continues to receive some of the highest number of planning applications in the Southeast.
- Cameron tries to support parish council objections where he is able to do so on planning grounds. As in previous years Cameron has tried to ensure that there is consistency in relation to planning decisions and that the Green belt is protected where possible.

#### **Finally**

We of course remain available to discuss any local issues and would like to thank both parishes for all their hard work during 2017 - 2018

Kim Bayley  
Cameron Brown  
March 2018

<sup>2</sup> <http://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=320&J=1>

<sup>3</sup> <http://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s33367/171031%20-%2031%20October%202017%20-%20Minutes.pdf?J=1>



# KENT POLICE REPORT FOR DUNTON GREEN APM 2018



## Crime 01/03/2017 -28/02/2018

Over the last year there have been a total of 359 crimes across all the crime categories in Dunton Green & Riverhead ward.

November experienced the most offences with 50, followed by June with 43. The lowest month is December with 17 offences, followed by August with 18.

Violence against the person (VAP/assaults) has experienced the most offences with 103 accounting for 28.7% of the total crime, followed by Theft with 45 (12.5%) and Theft from Motor Vehicle with 33 (9.25%). No other crime category experienced more than 30 offences.

VAP offences range from 3 offences (in December) to 20 offences (in June). June, March and January saw the highest volumes of 20, 15 and 14 offences, respectively. The months of August, April, October and December had the lowest levels with 5, 5, 4 and 3 offences, respectively.

Theft offences vary from 1 to 11 offences each month. June was the highest month with 11 followed by May with 6 offences. March, August and December saw the lowest levels with 2, 2 and 1 offence(s) each, respectively.

The remainder of the reports include offences of burglary (27), criminal damage (21).

Violent offences range from common assault to Actual Bodily Harm, the vast majority of these offences are committed behind closed doors and are classed as domestic incidents.

The theft offences mainly relate to shoplifting with Tesco Riverhead being classed as a repeat Victim.

## ASB 01/03/2017 – 28/02/2018

Over the last year there has been a total of 89 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.

May and June 2017 saw the highest number of incidents in relation to ASB, closely followed by March and April 2017 with 11 incidents each and November 2017 with 10.

Rowdy or nuisance gathering in public place had the most incidents with 33. This accounted for 37% of the total number of incidents

Drunken or rowdy behaviour accounted for 13 reports and nuisance vehicle accounted for 13 also.

The remainder of reports were made up of neighbour disputes and littering.

The three top venues for ASB

- Tesco Stores inc the Service Station, Aisher Way, Sevenoaks, TN13 2QS
- Harvester Restaurants, The Riverhead, Amhurst Hill, Sevenoaks, TN13 2EN
- Donnington Manor Hotel, London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TD

## Local Officer update, PCSO Amy Hardy and PCSO Ellie Collins

Since Sept 2017 we have both together covering Dunton Green, as well as other areas. We have worked extensively to target ASB in the village. We have had the support of other colleagues on many nights of action where we have been targeting the hot spot problem areas, as well as working with other partners and agencies (community safety unit and housing) to work with and assist some families more closely with identified individuals who were causing local issues and showed some vulnerability. Some examples of actions we have taken recently have been acceptable behaviour agreement issued to individuals and written warning (S59) to nuisance moped drivers and we have received helpful reports from members of public and business owners which assisted us with these actions. We have in-turn noticed a reduced number of ASB reports and we hope this will continue.

**As always please make sure crimes and incidents are reported to us by using 101 for non- urgent incidents, 999 in emergencies and you can now report online via the Kent police website.**



## Dunton Green Primary School: Report from the Chair and Headteacher

It has been another year of change for Dunton Green Primary School. In June, a new Headteacher, Mrs Tracey Boanas, was appointed. The school was fortunate to attract such an experienced head and she has brought tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to the role. She is already having a major impact on all aspects of school life. She quickly won the support of staff, parents and pupils. In a recent parent survey, 85% of parents either strongly agreed or agreed that the school is well led and managed. Nearly all would recommend the school to other parents. This reflects the major advances which have been made over the last nine months.

One of Mrs Boanas's early initiatives was to review the school's vision and values, in consultation with pupils, parents and staff. The agreed new vision is "Driven by excellence, succeeding together". The values are Respect, Achievement, Resilience, Teamwork and Perseverance. These values underlie everything the school does and they are constantly reinforced. They have a major influence in ensuring that the school is a happy place. Behaviour is generally excellent and has won high praise on visits.

There is a wide range of learning opportunities including music, drama and a great variety of sports, as well as the academic subjects. Results are improving and a love of learning is being inculcated. The breakfast and after school clubs are growing in popularity, and there are many out-of-school activities. Ofsted is due to make a further inspection within the next 6 months and we firmly believe the school is on course to be rated "Good", and have ambitions to reach "Outstanding" in future.

The school is looking good. There are inspiring displays of works on the walls and in the classrooms. A new outside learning area had been developed for the children in the Reception Class. The roof has at long last been repaired so there are no longer puddles on the floor when it rains, and some of the windows have been replaced. We hope we are going to get a new front porch to make a more welcoming entrance and increase security for the school.

Dunton Green Primary School has always been an important part of the wider Dunton Green community and we attach importance to this. We believe at Dunton Green Primary School that the community really matters and that it is important to develop relationships and links into the wider community.

In November members of the school council laid a wreath on behalf of the school as part of the remembrance service.

Some of our teaching assistants and the school council organised a MacMillan coffee morning in September and many members of the local community came in to share a cup of coffee and a slice of cake, helping to raise over £600.

As part of the Christmas Bazaar the school worked with Sevenoaks District Council to organise an ice skating rink; this provided a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and join in with the Christmas spirit.

Also in December we were fortunate enough to be able to hold our Carol Concert in St Mary's Church in Riverhead. Martin Booth the Vicar regularly comes into school and takes assembly; his friendly approach is always welcomed by pupils and staff.

In January the school hosted afternoon tea for 30 local pensioners. The children served drinks, cakes and biscuits for the afternoon. Each class took it in turns to sing a song or recite poetry to the pensioners. The school received many cards of thanks for a wonderful afternoon.

In September we re-named all the classes after inspirational people and the children spent the first few weeks researching and learning all about their class name. This learning really supports the learning and understanding of British Values within the curriculum.

The children in Year 2 wrote to their inspirational person - Mo Farah. He kindly wrote back and the children were very excited to receive a response which encouraged all the children to continue to work hard and listen to their teachers!

Year 5 also wrote to Michael Fallon MP about a debate they had engaged in regarding zoos. They sent a transcript of the arguments to the MP who responded with praise for the four pupils who argued against the majority. A valuable skill stated Mr Fallon, as it helped the children see things from both sides.

We have been developing the community spirit in school also and the older children have been mentoring younger pupils both as buddies and sports leaders in the playground. The sports leaders organise and implement games at lunchtime for the other children to participate in. This has been extremely beneficial and has helped to raise the self-esteem of all the sports leaders involved.

Each class pairs up with a different year group class once a week and the children listen to each other read. For example, Year 5 pupils read with Year 2 children. This approach has also been hugely successful in developing relationships between different age groups within the school and means that the younger children relate more to their peers in the playground.

We have a fantastic project to look forward to in the summer term thanks to the generosity of the Sevenoaks Lions who have donated £3000 to enable us to regenerate our pond area. We truly value the benefits of outdoor learning and we are very grateful to the Lions, as we are now able to buy all the necessary equipment and transform the pond area. We aim to share the resource with 'Tiggers' nursery who is our closest neighbour.

There is a lot going on in the school and there is a real buzz about it. Do come and see for yourselves. Visitors are always welcome. To arrange a tour with the Headteacher please call Karen Shaw at the school office. 01732 62221

Sarah Brown  
Chair of the Governors

Tracey Boanas  
Headteacher