**Dennington CEVCP School - Annual Report to the Parish Council May 2015**

2014 - 2015 has been a tremendously busy and fruitful year for the school.

 I am delighted to report that we have been awarded a 'Good' Ofsted rating following an inspection in April. This is testament to the commitment and dedication of Mrs Jones, staff, governors, pupils and parents, all of whom have worked tirelessly to see our village school portrayed as a shining example of achievement and joy.

**OFSTED INSPECTION**

I would urge you to read the full report but here are some of the comments made by the inspector, Geoff Timms:

* The school is successful in extending pupils’ horizons and aspirations.
* The creation of the federation has had a positive impact on the quality of teaching. This is because teachers have had more opportunities to work together and share their expertise and interests across both schools.
* Leaders have a strong focus on increasing pupils’ aspirations and preparing them for life after school.
* Pupils talk enthusiastically about their work and other aspects of school life, such as clubs and sporting opportunities.
* (Pupils) have good opportunities to take responsibility and learn about democracy through activities such as the school council, and older pupils enjoy the opportunity to look after the younger ones.

**FEDERATION**

Dennington formally federated with Charsfield primary school on 1st September 2014. It was gratifying to note within the Ofsted report how much of a positive impact this has had and within such a short period of time. The main change has been that there is now one governing body covering both schools. We have altered our structure in order to be 'fitter and faster' and work effectively with Mrs Jones and the teaching staff. It is our duty to ensure that both schools are the best that they can be for the children within our communities.

**CLASS STRUCTURE**

With less than fifty children on roll, the eyes of the world are upon us but we have stuck to our dogged belief that three classes best serves the needs of our pupils. Class 1 - Reception and Year 1, Class 2 - Years 2 & 3, Class 3 - Years 4, 5 & 6.

We now run a 'Stay and Play' Session every Tuesday afternoon from 2.15pm to 3.15pm, for those due to start their schooling in September 2015. This is an ideal opportunity to familiarise both parents and children with our school and meet the teaching staff.

A Toddler Group also runs every Friday afternoon in the school hall.

**SPORTING EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

We pride ourselves on the number of events our children take part in. It would be all too easy to not participate because we are such a small school but we believe that our children learn so much more by being given the chance to take part - we may come first or last but our children never complain and always take part with a glad heart and a willingness to 'have a go'. Such traits will surely stand them in good stead.

Here are some of the events:

Swimming gala at Fram College, TAG rugby at TMHS, High Five's Netball at TMHS, rounders tournament at Debenham, athletics at TMHS, cross country at Fram College, Young Art East Anglia, Potato competition at Trinity Park, Radio 2 500 Words competition.

**ENRICHMENT**

Staff and volunteers have run a number of clubs at school, e.g. Bible, Spanish, football, minecraft,

mat ball. Friendly PE fixtures have also taken place between Charsfield and Dennington.

Children have enjoyed learning opportunities beyond the classroom with the following visits; Colchester Zoo, Lambing day at Framlingham Hall, Gressenhall Museum and Workhouse, Framlingham Castle, Southwold Harbour and Pier, metal detecting as part of an archaeology study, residential trip to Hilltop (activity centre) for Years 5 & 6. Mr Rous kindly arranged for two tractors to be brought to school as part of the Tractor Day initiative.

Mrs Rous brings Eider, her PAT dog (Pets as Therapy) in to school on a weekly basis for some of the children to read to - this helps them develop their confidence and enjoyment of reading.

As part of the Diocesan Centenary celebrations, Years 3 to 6 took part in a musical written by Michael Hurd called Pilgrim. They performed in Bury St Edmunds cathedral alongside Charsfield and some other schools. What a wonderful experience for them and what a joy it was for the many parents who went to watch.

**CARING FOR OTHERS**

Children purchased Red Noses and made biscuits to raise funds for Comic Relief.

All children took part in the Cancer Research 'Race for Life' last month on the village sports field. The final amount of money raised isn't known yet but well done to all children and to the staff who took part.

**PREMISES**

We received grants from Adnams, Dennington Consolidated Charities and The Mills Trust for improvements to the playground. There has been a issue with the re-surfacing but this has been resolved so we hope to conclude the works shortly.

In addition, the children have raised money through their 'Great Big Poetry Challenge' which they would like to spend on playground equipment.

Emma Cross, Chair of Governors

May 2015