

Claremont Primary School



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Dear Parents, Colleagues and Governors,

Headteacher's Review of 2016-17

This, my second year at Claremont, has been a year of embedding and building on from the changes from last year.

I am delighted to report that our dedicated team of staff has delivered significant development in the creative curriculum, assessment, Accelerated Reader, the use of the outdoors for learning, boys' writing, maths and assessment in science. This has led to a broader, balanced and engaging curriculum, including chess lessons, forest schools and the use of film. Monitoring of lessons has evidenced the impact of the developments on pupils' enjoyment of learning. The overall personal development of the pupils is well supported too with a range of positive interventions and it is always a pleasure for me to discuss the welfare and academic progress of every pupil in the school with the Inclusion Manager, Teachers and Teaching Partners in September, January and April.

I am so proud of our pupils and their positive attitude, politeness and hard work and they are a real credit to themselves, their parents and the school. 63% of Keystage 2 pupils have represented the school at sporting events and 38% have represented the school at other events and on many occasions the public have remarked on their excellent behaviour, positivity and manners. I am grateful to the School Council who have met regularly and have given suggestions for improving life for pupils at Claremont. They have organised a very successful singing competition and it has been a pleasure to hear lots of musical voices throughout the whole school in these past few weeks.

Attendance remains well above the national average and the school has been regularly commended by the Local Authority. Thank you for supporting this. There is a new Attendance Policy in line with KCC, which will be implemented from September. Please find it attached and on the school website.

Our end of year data is again strong and well above national averages. Notably end of Keystage 2 is 9% higher than last year. However, it is not all about the data, but about the children behind the data: the data gives us the opportunity to celebrate how well children are learning and adults are teaching. Well done everyone!

EARLY YEARS

	CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2015/16		CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2015/16
GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT	79%	67.3%		N/A	N/A
READING expected	88.5%	77%	READING exceeding	21.3%	19%
WRITING expected	83.6%	72.6%	WRITING exceeding	13.1%	11.7%
NUMBER expected	93.4%	78.8%	NUMBER exceeding	18%	14.6%

PHONICS – YEAR 1

	CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2015/16
PASSED	95%	81%
HIGH PASS 37+/40	50%	N/A

KEYSTAGE 1

	CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2015/16		CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2015/16
READING expected	88%	74%	READING Greater depth	35%	23.6%
WRITING expected	77%	65.5%	WRITING Greater depth	17%	13.3%
MATHS expected	85%	72.6%	NUMBER Greater depth	20%	17.8%

KEYSTAGE 2 - TESTS

	CLAREMONT 2016/17	NATIONAL 2016/17	TUNBRIDGE WELLS 2016/17		CLAREMONT 2016/17	TUNBRIDGE WELLS 2016/17
COMBINED ARE	84%	61%	71.2%	COMBINED Higher Standard	22%	11.6%
READING ARE	94%	71%	Not known yet	READING High Score-110	59%	Not known yet
WRITING ARE	91%	76%	Not known yet	WRITING Greater depth	33%	Not known yet
MATHS ARE	88%	75%	Not known yet	NUMBER High Score-110	36%	Not known yet
GPS ARE	92%	77%	Not known yet	GPS High Score-110	47%	Not known yet

N.B. 'Combined' is attaining ARE/Higher standard in all of reading, writing and maths

We are very fortunate to have forward-thinking staff who want to give the children the best opportunity to succeed in every area. Staff have actively engaged in educational research; coaching and mentoring; and leading school improvement and staff development. The administrative staff have done a huge job in developing robust procedures in school in many areas including safeguarding, attendance, the School Gateway, parent consultation evening bookings and emergency procedures. I wish to thank all the staff for their hard work and support over the year – for going that ‘extra mile’.

We have also worked hard to improve communication this year. Jodi Stevens, the Office Manager and I have been developing our new website. The aim has been to not overcrowd it with too much information, but to make it relevant, useful and also compliant. However ideas for further improvement are always welcome. This year we also produced an annual calendar for parents for the first time. Many parents have told me how much this supported them in organising time off work to attend events and where possible we have tried not to deviate from those dates, although I apologise that this has not always been possible. Please find attached the next academic year’s calendar.

It has been a pleasure to meet parents both informally and formally during the year. I am very grateful to the huge band of parents who support us through volunteering in school, organising and supporting school clubs, supporting school trips and also giving us financial gifts – this is all very much appreciated. The PTA has done another sterling job this year and without their support we would be struggling to deliver our 5 year ICT plan. I have enjoyed personally supporting the PTA during the year, including performing in the staff rock band and pulling my first ever pint at Clarefest!

The Governors continue to work hard to strategically lead the school with me. Sometimes we overlook the fact that they are just volunteers too. On behalf of the school I want to thank them for their direction and vision which enables Claremont to be the outstanding school it is.

This year I have spent a lot of time reflecting on the school structure as the current structure was no longer suitable for the future needs of the school. A new structure will be implemented in September 2017 with the arrival of our new Deputy Headteacher and I will give you further information of that in September. Meanwhile I am very grateful to all those senior staff who have stepped up during this year of leadership change.

The School Business Manager and her team have worked hard to ensure that the school building is maintained and developed. A roof replacement programme was successful and although it was during the school term, did not impact greatly on the pupils’ learning. The new gates and fences which were completed in the summer holidays have worked well. A new lock-down alarm system has been fitted. Planning permission has been agreed for new windows and we look forward to those being fitted. This has also been our first year of meals being cooked on site in our new kitchen. This has been well received by the majority of parents and children and we received 5 stars in the recent food hygiene inspection. We are very grateful that Julie Cook has managed to get many of these projects funded by Kent County Council.

Our roles as a Teaching School, lead primary for Altius Teaching School Alliance and National Support School continue to be developed and this year it was a privilege to facilitate a course for Strategic Middle Leaders from across the town; to support Initial Teacher Training; and to support St Stephen’s School in Tonbridge. Although this is additional work, it gives our staff valuable experiences within a variety of contexts, and also helps to attract, recruit and retain good staff. We look forward to being an integral part of the Teach Kent and Sussex teacher training organisation from September 2017. I am delighted that a member of our support staff will be in the first cohort training to be a teacher next year.

Two weeks ago two Local Authority officers visited us for a pre-Ofsted review. I am delighted that they agreed that we continue to be ‘Outstanding’. Safeguarding, the staff and pupils’ attitude to safeguarding and our creative curriculum were highly commended. It is always helpful to get external viewpoints on the school throughout the year.

Below are some comments from the Local Authority:

'Children have stimulating, exciting and open-ended resources which ignite and support their curiosities. They maintain high levels of involvement, energies and fascinations.'

'It was evident that there are higher levels of engagement than previously seen. Pupils were involved in a range of active learning experiences, they were cooperating with each other, working individually and in teams and there were several examples of problem solving observed throughout the school.'

'Teachers are able to talk knowledgeably and affectionately about the processes children take in their approaches to learning, citing immeasurable examples of children when they are involved in independent learning. Children have a definite "can do" attitude to life and learning.'

'Pupil involvement in review and evaluation of Personalised Provision Plans is well established and embedded in practice. This is very good practice'.

'Pupils with High Needs Funding are making progress because needs have been identified, outcomes developed and interventions put in place which are reviewed and evaluated and changed as necessary'.

'The practice here (Claremont/Yr 6) was very strong and the Year 6 teachers' judgements were very robust. They knew their children very well across the year group.'

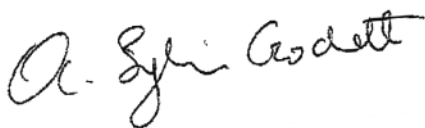
And finally –

As Headteacher of Claremont Primary School, I strive to achieve a good balance between maintaining our family atmosphere whilst leading and managing a large organisation of 500 pupils and 62 members of staff. There are lots of different expectations from all our stakeholders and I try my best to listen to everyone's viewpoints, but I recognise that it is a near impossible task to keep everyone happy! Therefore, I hope you understand that, as the lead professional with the complete overview of the school and the educational landscape, at times I just have to do what I believe is right.

It is a privilege to lead Claremont Primary School and I thank all the pupils, staff, governors and parents who are so supportive to the school, to one another, and to me.

I wish everyone a very happy and restful summer and I wish all those moving on every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,



Sylvia Crockett
Headteacher

