

Claremont Primary School



Headteacher:

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Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY AND REFLECTIONS: 2017-18

In 2017/18 it was a pleasure to introduce and develop our new vision statement:

A hub of educational excellence and innovation, supporting and valuing everyone.

We have worked hard to deliver this through our six strategic pillars:

- 1. Provide our children with outstanding education with an inspiring, broad and relevant knowledge and skills-based curriculum, encouraging a life-long love of learning.**

I am pleased to report that academic standards remain high across the school and for the first time are now well above national and LA across the school in every area. In most areas data is stronger than last year, and often well beyond expectations/predictions, particularly at greater depth where there have been some significant rises in attainment.

Early Years

- **Good Level of Development** 84%
- **Reading** – expected 88.3% ; exceeding 43.3%
- **Writing** – expected 86.7%; exceeding 30.0%
- **Number** – expected 90%; exceeding 40%

Year 1 Phonics

- 90% pass

End of Key Stage 1

- **Reading** - expected 91.7 %; exceeding 50%
- **Writing** - expected 81.7%; exceeding 40%
- **Maths** - expected 88.3%; exceeding 41.7%

End of Key Stage 2

- **Reading** - Expected 93%: well above national (75%); Exceeding 48%
- **Writing** - Expected 98%: well above national (78%); Exceeding 43%
- **Maths** – Expected 85%: well above national (76%); Exceeding 39%
- **Grammar Punctuation Spelling** – Expected 89%: well above national (78%); GDS 57% up 10%
- **Combined Reading, Writing, Maths** – Expected 82%; well above national (64%); Higher standard 23%
- **Reading scaled score** average 109; national 105
- **Maths scaled score** average 107; national 104
- **GPS scaled score** average 110; national 106

Although the data highlights our overall success, having just written every child's report, it is always important to remember that it represents every unique child with their individual strengths, abilities and hopes.

We continue to deliver an exciting and relevant curriculum and I hope that the Curriculum Maps help you understand what is being taught in school. We are excited about next year, as we develop the curriculum even further and look forward to support from parents with this.

The new RE and MFL schemes have been introduced and this supports further our approach to enquiry-based learning. The addition of outdoor learning and chess in the curriculum gives a broad learning experience to children.

Of course, it has not just been about academic successes. The level of sports participation has been high with us competing in many areas at county level. At the recent district awards it was a pleasure to see a number of nominations for Claremont, with us winning PE Coordinator of the Year, Team of the Year and Sportsman of the Year.

A recent arts week produced amazing art from across the school. An art exhibition is currently being held at Royal Victoria Place shopping centre throughout the whole summer. Please could I encourage you to view it as well as write a comment in the visitors' book.

PE is an important part of our curriculum and all staff teach it for at least 2 hours weekly, giving additional support when necessary. The impact of this has been that according to NHS figures in Reception 24.7% are overweight/obese which is statistically similar to Kent and National figures, but by the time they reach the end of year 6 only 12% are overweight, which is half of Reception and is much lower than England (34%) and Kent (33%) where the percentage increases. We are very grateful to all the many parents who support this.

2. Develop a stimulating, exciting learning environment in a safe, happy and caring school.

During this academic year there has been a focus on three school values throughout the school: independence, growth mind-set and curiosity. Each value has been introduced at whole school level at a special assembly attended by all members of staff, including admin staff. We hope you have found the notes we send home helpful. Rewards have been based around the values. We have been developing new values for next year and look forward to 'unveiling' those in September.

In term 1 we created and established an area within each classroom to celebrate learning, including examples of values and challenges.

In term 2 the Strategic Leaders, led by the Deputy Head looked at beyond the classrooms to develop an environment to inspire and motivate pupils as they travel around the school.

From term 3 we have been developing maths and literacy learning walls to develop independence of pupils within their own learning.

Safeguarding and pupil and staff wellbeing continue to take high priority. Safeguarding procedures continue to be improved. A visit by Kent County Compliance showed that there were no issues.

3. Support, empower, stimulate and invest in our staff.

New members of staff this year have supported our vision and drive well this year. Personally, it has been a pleasure to work alongside a dedicated and very able deputy – Mrs. Roberts has certainly made her mark in so many different areas. Recently she has heard that her bid for scooter pods has been successful as part of the work of her travel plan group.

Several staff have enrolled and commenced on high level training courses, including leadership training and SEN. These courses are important for supporting succession planning.

We make it a priority to support staff's training needs in line with the strategic plan and their own personal development. Weekly, we now have sound-bytes for both teaching staff and teaching partners. These are short 15 minutes led by members of staff around an area of expertise or research. Additionally, we encourage staff to go on courses and visits as appropriate to enhance their learning and skills.

As a Teaching School, there are many additional opportunities for staff development as Specialist Leaders of Education and trainee teacher mentors.

4. Work efficiently and effectively to make the most of our resources.

The School Business Manager and I continue to work closely together to ensure efficiency across all areas. The focus on every decision is what is best for pupil outcomes, wellbeing and safety and the Strategic School Plan. A visit by Compliance highlighted that there were no areas of the business management of the school that had to be addressed. We have presented another well balanced three-year budget.

GDPR has been led by a team of staff and governors. Many systems and practices in school have changed and an action plan is in place to develop this further.

This year we have been patiently waiting on our new windows. Following successful planning-permission it has taken two tenders before KCC could get us a suitable contractor. It is now all in place for a summer start. We are having the highest spec solar windows and look forward to warmer winters and cooler summers! Interestingly our light project from two years ago, has impacted on a better energy efficiency grading.

The next developments are going to be working on the school grounds and we have been developing a priority plan.

The partnership with the PTA supports our budget and they currently pay for our 5 year ICT rolling programme as well as many other initiatives.

5. Collaborate and share expertise with others, and lead educational practice.

As the lead primary of Altius Teaching School Alliance, we work hard to support other schools across the local area. We also put on a variety of courses for staff at all levels.

This year we had our first year of working with our new teacher training partner, Teach Kent and Sussex. Claremont and have had 8 primary trainees spread across several schools. All trainees passed with either a grade 2 (good) or grade 1 (outstanding). The external examiner was very complimentary about the standard of the trainees and the course. Throughout the year several of our staff have led subject-specific training sessions, as well as mentoring. We are pleased to be welcoming Julie Levett, one of the successful trainees to our teaching staff next year.

As Head of Claremont and the Teaching School I sit on various educational boards, but these are interesting and keeps us in touch with national and local priorities and initiatives. We have recently heard that we have been successful with a bid of nearly £400,000 to support maths at Key Stage 2 across the area. This will be a stimulating project and although we are leading on it, I know that it will benefit us greatly too.

This year Claremont has supported 7 different primary schools throughout the year as well as speaking at conferences and workshops. Support has included leadership, teaching and learning, behaviour management and business support. The support has been gratefully received.

It is a pleasure to continue to work closely with the other Tunbridge Wells schools, both secondary and primary.

6. Engage with and involve all our stakeholders.

The PTA has done an amazing job this year with many different and well-attended events. Thank you everyone for your commitment, time, contributions and money. I appreciate the dedication of our school governors too, as they support and challenge the staff and me.

Our weekly newsletter and school website remain the key communication vehicles and I appreciate the time parents take to read it every week. The electronic payments and booking systems have made life easier for parents and the school office team.

This has been a busy year supporting parental appeals for secondary school, particularly as a number did not get their first choice or even any of their choices. However, I am pleased that everyone is now happy with their allocation.

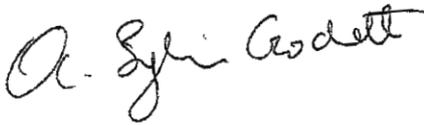
And finally –

Thank you to everyone who makes Claremont the successful and happy school it is:

- to the pupils for your determination, laughter and love of learning
- to the staff for your commitment, enthusiasm, patience and love of children
- to the parents for your understanding, support and thoughtfulness
- to the Governors for your endless energy, dedication and challenge

I wish everyone a happy and restful summer and to our leavers I wish you every happiness and success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sylvia Crockett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs A Sylvia Crockett
Headteacher