

Bawdsey CEVC Primary School

East Lane, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3AP

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Yearly report for the Bawdsey Parish Council April 2024

We have had a fantastic year with enhancing what we could offer to the children and their families. This is so we also achieve our five key learning intentions from our vision: for the children to be Courageous, Caring, Resilient, so they know they are Equal with others and to have a desire to Explore.

Initially with the credit crisis, we put our afterschool care and breakfast club costs down to help our families and offered a buy two spaces and get a third free for our larger families. We also have maintained a very low cost for our morning sessions in Nursery for 2 year olds and we can still offer matched funding for 3 year olds so there are no school time care costs for them. Governors agreed we are a community resource and even though at times we have run at a deficit with staffing costs we would take that on to help Parents and Carers in the current times. This shows we are trying to live up to our Caring community minded approach.

We have this year been able to run four classes and will be for the next two years at least, as Governors wanted the children to have the best we could offer them in terms of staff to child ratios and the adult attention to help them learn. Each class also has at least one member of support staff too. Along with this we have upped the time we have a SENDCo to help children and their families even further with their different needs and for Early Help to be given.

As a result of this and some of the wider opportunities we offer we now have over 70 children in Nursery to year 6 and this we are checking as we think it may be the highest roll since WW2. Since I started 7+ years ago the roll has gone up by 36%. Our attendance figures are consistently higher than National as children enjoy coming to the school.

Our classes each have beach and forest school sessions in the year (including Nursery) and they all having cooking lessons, most in our bespoke teaching kitchen (Nursery cannot reach yet but prepare the food in the classroom). In beach school and through our eco-council the children clear rubbish from the cove at East lane regularly. In forest school the children and their families enjoyed helping plant the churchyard with the daffodils for this Spring.

The children in years 3-6 still go swimming for two terms every year, which we thought was very important with our location being so close to the water. We have also achieved our Platinum Award



for the Suffolk School Games, all of this has helped us ensure we fulfil two of our five key intentions for the children at our school to be excited to explore and to ensure they are resilient. (In this instance in how to keep healthy.)

During the year the children are taught about Mental Health and Wellbeing and how to emotionally regulate. They have help with this through our Thrive programme, which provides activities each week for the classes to do and for individual and small groups of children who need a bit more support in some areas to improve their wellbeing. This ensures the emotional resilience of the children.

Through a resource called, 'No outsiders. Everyone's different. Everyone's welcome' it enables the children to understand our diverse world and that they are equal within it. With this the children discuss situations and remind each other to be caring, in the hope they may be nominated to have a 'Good Samaritan' award which is given out each week to anyone who goes above and beyond the usual expectations each day to be kind, caring or achieve something extra special.

We promote respect and courageous actions in everyday life within the school, asking the children to do the right thing even when it is hard and they are often commended for their team spirit and kindness when they represent the school on trips, at events or with members of the public. Most lately they were commended by the photographer working with them and the volunteers working at Bury Cathedral when they visited.

With the staff volunteering and through our sport funding the children have eight cost free clubs they can attend after school and three lunchtime clubs too if they cannot stay after school. The year 5 and 6 children learn the clarinet and perform each year to the school, their parents and carers and with other children learning instruments at different schools. Again, we do not charge for the children to learn over one year which other schools do to cover their costs. It is important no children are unable to access things due to costs, and we provide access for all. We have been working as a team with the other IP12 schools in the area and increasing the opportunities for all the children and staff. With joint events for staff training and support, and for the pupils with large debating, poetry/ oracy and sporting events. This has also developed all of the pupil's transition to their high school.

Although we have had some movement in staffing in the last year, staff remain happy and appreciate the support we give them too. We have also recently been awarded with the 'Confident and committed, disability award' for staff.

All in all, we are proud in what we can offer the children and their families and how we are preparing them for the wider world and their future lives at Bawdsey CEVCP School.

Katie Butler
Headteacher

