



ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



The Headteacher's Review of 2014-2015 & Preview of 2015-2016

Notwithstanding the very sad loss of Gambian HT Mr Ismaila Cham in December 2014, the *encasing* of School House in scaffolding in February 2015 due to falling roof tiles (and the subsequent successful financial bid to repair and refurbish the same this summer), the year 2014-2015 was a very happy and rewarding one, academically AND on the sports field, with so much being achieved and enjoyed thanks to the commitment, generosity of spirit and wonderful support of **all** associated with the school.

There was a *plethora* of events and activities which began with..... the rescheduling of one of the school's favourite *traditions*, the FAPS Family BBQ, to early Autumn term.....and which went on to include: participation and success in a whole range of sporting events and fixtures for all pupils (more details later in this Review), the annual Sussex County Chess Competition, Citizenship Programme, Bikeability Assessment Week, Cookery Days at Shoreham College, Bumbles' Garden planting and sowing, Enrichment Day/s Programme, the Y2 Music Festival **and** the introduction of a new 'Infant Bake-Off Competition'. There was the amazing performance by the whole school of 'CINDERELLA" at Christmas, the seven class 'Curriculum Visits' to places of interest including Wakehurst Place and Brighton Museum, the 'Pupils' IT Skills Presentation to Parents & Carers Afternoon' and the 'Internet Safety Evening for Parents & Carers' (with PC Keeley), the Chanctonbury Schools **and** Ashurst School MUSIC FESTIVALS, the Y5&Y6 Residential Visit to SWANAGE, seven Parent Consultation Mornings/Afternoons, five Open Afternoons, three Sharing Assemblies, two Leavers' Services, representation in the annual Ashurst Flower Show **AND the welcome introduction and induction of new classteacher for Y5/6, Miss Jordan**. MANY, if not ALL of the above, featured in your 'favourite moments and events of 2014-2015', cited in your 'ANNUAL EVALUATIONS' returned to school in July.

The school had occasion to be proud of its academic performance once again. In December 2014, the Department for Education reported on the performance of all Y6 primary school pupils nationally (i.e. Y6 SAT results

2014). Ashurst pupils were amongst the highest and the school sustained its place as the top performing school in West Sussex.

The overall progress and performance of all pupils in school in 2014-2015, especially those at the end of KS1 and KS2, was very good, with a number of individual Ashurst pupils excelling, relative to their respective *prior attainment*. The school was VERY pleased with the 2015 results of all nine Y6 pupils in 'Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling', especially after the governors' letter to the Minister for Education, Nicky Morgan, in September 2014. The impact of the school ethos and environment, its personalised approach to teaching - which includes that of the Headteacher with Y6 pupils in Spring and Summer terms annually - and its involvement of pupils in how to learn effectively is significant in the success of all pupils and especially those in receipt of Pupil Premium (the school's ANNUAL STATEMENT on PUPIL PREMIUM can be found on the website).

According to the formal and informal responses of parents, pupils and friends to ALL of the many school events and functions, 2014- 2015 was another WONDERFUL academic year!

2014-2015 - in more detail:

Ashurst pupils, especially those in KS2, attended Locality Gifted & Talented/Enrichment Days organised by the Chanctonbury Group of Schools. Y5 pupils attended weekly after-school 'Masterclasses' in Maths and Technology at Steyning Grammar School in Spring 2015 and also took part in the Horsham District 'Citizenship Challenge' in June.

The parents of Reception pupils came in to school to observe lessons and discuss YR teaching and learning practices with classteachers. The parents of Y6 pupils came in to school in February to learn more about the end of KS2 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests) and Y2 and Y6 parents came in to school in July to receive the results of their respective children.

Parents Mrs Price, Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Scadding-Hunt supported pupils in school, mainly in reading. Parent Mrs Garnett helped to organise Bumbles' Garden - with regular professional support from parent Mr Marshall. The school also received support from other parents with various 'Self Help' projects. Ashurst resident and good friend of the

school, Mrs Smith (grandparent of Scout Smith), helped to collate photographs of school activities and visits throughout 2014-2015. Parent Mrs Bricknell organised the purchase of new school uniform and Chairman, Mrs Woods, organised the sale of second-hand uniform. We thank all of them for their hard work and huge contribution to the life of the school.

The school's PE/Sport programme for pupils from Y1-Y6, at Dalesdown Gym from October to March and on the Recreation Ground at other times, with specialist PE/Games coaching and teaching from representatives of Horsham Leisurelink, proved VERY popular and equally successful. Pupils enjoyed participating in a range of school and inter-school events, competitions and tournaments including: Y5&6 Henfield Football Tournament, Tag Rugby Competition and Cricket Day, Y3/4&5 Rounders Tournament, Y4/5&6 Girls' Swimming Gala, YR&Y1 Multi Sports, Y2 Multi Skills and Athletics. Horsham Leisurelink and classteacher, Miss Jordan, provided after-school lessons for Y1&2 in football, multi-skills and athletics. Former Ashurst teacher, Mr Malsbury, took KS2 Football Club and Rounders Club, and also organised another highly successful Sports Day in mid-June. Classteacher, Miss Jordan also organised netball and cricket coaching for KS2 pupils.

As required by the DfE, a STATEMENT on the school's use of its PE/SPORTS GRANT can be found on the website.

Throughout 2014-2015, in accordance with respective School Development Plans (SDP), pupil progress in English and Maths was closely monitored and evaluated. Members of staff continued to take part in the *moderating* of pupils' *independent writing*, with others from the Chanctonbury Group of Schools, to ensure consistency of judgements.

There were regular meetings of the network of Steyning & Chanctonbury School Headteachers, and of representatives from individual schools to consult upon the implementation of the NEW National Curriculum from September 2014 and the introduction of new assessment systems to replace *level descriptors* from September 2015.

There were regular meetings of the school's Full Governing Body and formal in-school 'Monitoring Visits' made by them *in pairs* during the year, notably in Autumn and Spring terms - to observe lessons, talk to staff and the Head; and to formally report back to the Full Governing Body

thereby holding the leadership and management *to account*. There was full and effective use of the computerised 'Governors' Virtual Office' (GVO) set up by them in 2012-2013. The Chanctonbury Schools' Governance Group (CNoS), of local Headteachers and their respective Chairs of Governors, also established in 2013, met throughout the year to discuss various generic issues including the DfE paper on the 'Promotion of Fundamental British Values'.

Visitors to the school were many and included: School Nurse, NHS Physiotherapist, PC Keeley, lay preachers Mrs Croft and Rector Father Neil.

School thanked Dalesdown, Horsham Leisurelink, The Towers' Convent, and Shoreham College for their wonderful support throughout 2014-2015, which once again included use of respective gyms, cookery and swimming facilities; and minibuses for transport to and from the same and for school visits.

During the academic year, pupils planned and organised a number of events to raise funds for: GET/Kotukala School, BBC 'Children in Need', Winston's Wish, the Nepal Earthquake Appeal and Ebola Outbreak Appeal. In response to pupils' wishes, the school adopted a third Silverback Gorilla having learned that Amy, their first adopted Silverback from Rwanda, had not been sighted since December 2014.

The 'Pupils' Voice' (part of regular Sharing Assemblies) praised: School trips, the Christmas Party, Football, Rugby, Rounders and Cricket Competitions, Cookery lessons, Sports Day and the now termly ASHURST PUPILS' TALENT SHOWS!

From January 2015, the Pupils' Noticeboard, in the main corridor, was set up by the pupils to celebrate and commemorate the life and good work of Mr Ismaila Cham, Headmaster of Kotukala School who died suddenly at Christmas time 2014 and whose loss was, and will always be, greatly felt.

Parent/Carer Annual Evaluations (and Pupil Annual Evaluations too!) sang the praises of: all school visits, Open Afternoons, Sharing Assemblies, the Christmas Production, Music Festivals, Swanage Visit, Sports Day, Dalesdown and PE provision AND all of the various FAPS' events and functions, especially the Barn Dance in Autumn 2014.

The AMAZING support from the 'Friends of Ashurst Primary School' (FAPS) was VERY MUCH appreciated throughout 2014-2015 and included: art materials/resources, provision of Cups, Shields and Awards, Christmas presents from Santa to the children at their Christmas Party and costume material for the Christmas Production, strawberry teas on Sports Day, the essential 10% contribution towards the Aided *status* of the school building and premises and HUGE support towards the school's on-going IT PROJECT, established in 2013.

Issues and concerns with the LA's provision of IT, continued throughout 2014-2015 - despite the hard work and best efforts of individual schools to rectify matters. Governors and the school are COMMITTED to resolving this situation, successfully and effectively, as soon as possible!

We thank everyone for making 2014-2015 the AMAZING year it was!

A PREVIEW of 2015-2016

There is much excitement for all that is planned by the school for 2015-2016:

- A new **HOST** for school's **WEBSITE** - with facilities for text updates to parents/carers regarding events and changes at short notice such as postponement of Football Club/sports fixture due to bad weather.
- Programme of regular and formal '**GOVERNOR VISITS TO SCHOOL**': monitoring practices, policies and procedures, reporting back to FGB and holding the L&M *to account*.
- School's reviewed and refined '**HOMEWORK POLICY**' **September 2015** - home signed and available on the school's website at the beginning of the academic year, as guidance and a resource for **ALL PARENTS & CARERS** on **HOW BEST TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LEARNING OUT (and in) SCHOOL**. For more information on the same subject, please see the school's Annual Prospectus on the website and the school's own 'Starting School' booklet for the parents/carers of YR pupils.
- The extension of **MISS JORDAN**'s role, as **COORDINATOR OF PE**, to include overseeing after-school clubs for KS1 & KS2.
- Effective use of school's **PE/SPORTS GRANT 2015-2016**
- **SCHOOL, FAMILIES & ST JAMES' CHURCH** with **FATHER NEIL** for **HARVEST FESTIVAL, MOTHERING SUNDAY &**

ROGATION SUNDAY - starting with **HARVEST SERVICE** at **ST JAMES' CHURCH** on **SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER** at 10.30am

- School's own **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** led by Y3/4 on **WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER**.
- The continuing implementation of the new **NATIONAL CURRICULUM** for Schools and the introduction of new **ASSESSMENT & TESTING** arrangements (including 'Baseline for Foundation Stage') plus monitoring and moderating of pupils' work in school and across the Locality.
- Effective use of school's **PUPIL PREMIUM** funding to employ a **specialist teacher to support individual and small groups of pupils, as appropriate**. Please see website: **STATEMENT**.
- The continuation of daily **FREE SCHOOL MEALS** for all infant pupils
- The future of school's partnership with **Kotukala School in The Gambia**, with the exciting prospect of the **Director of Education at The Gambian College of Education, Madame Isatou Ndow**, being established as voluntary, professional Overseer of **Kotukala School**.
- The prospect of another exciting residential **Field Study Visit to SWANAGE** in **June 2016** for **Y5&6** pupils.
- The introduction of new **IT equipment** (including a new **CURRICULUM SERVER**).
- Continuation of **PE & GAMES** lessons at **DALESDOWN** for all **Ashurst** pupils from **Y1-Y6** and specialist-taught **SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE TOWERS' CONVENT** for all pupils from **Y1 - Y6**, from **October half term 2015** to end of **Spring term 2016**
- The continuation of **COOKERY DAYS AT SHOREHAM COLLEGE** for pupils in **Y5&Y6** and cookery lessons 'on-site' for all other pupils.
- Continuation of **Chanctonbury Locality Schools' ENRICHMENT DAYS for PUPILS**.
- **BUILDING & PREMISES**: repair and enhancement: **School House Roof, school playground, fencing, gate controls and storage units. New toilet flooring and boys' urinal.**

STAFFING & TEACHING STRUCTURE 2015-2016

FS & KEY STAGE ONE:

Mrs Smith (formerly Ms Evans) and Mrs Pockett (both full-time)

Mrs Loveless: French weekly Y1 & Y2

Mrs Harwell: Music weekly FS&KS1

The Towers: Swimming Y1 & Y2 *blocked sessions*

Dalesdown weekly Y1&Y2

KEY STAGE TWO:

Y3&Y4:

Mrs Robins (part-time) and Mrs Harwell (part-time, including Music).

Mrs Hedley: Specialist Computing

PE/Gym/Games: Dalesdown, classteachers and Miss Jordan

The Towers: Swimming

Mrs Loveless: French

Y5&Y6:

Miss Jordan (full-time)

Mrs Hedley: Specialist Computing

PE/Gym./Games: Dalesdown Miss Jordan

The Towers: Swimming

Mrs Harwell: Music

Mrs Loveless: French

PLUS:

Mrs Croft: specialist support in RE.

Mr Smith: specialist flute teacher.

Mrs Williams: *across* the school, and with Y6 in particular.

Mrs Hedley: E-Learning & Network Manager, School Office Admin. & Premises

Mrs Ixer: Bursar & School Office Administrator

CLASS TOPICS this year include:

FS & KS1

AUTUMN: 'OURSELVES - FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS'
and 'FIRE AND DRAGONS'

SPRING: 'IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND FAMOUS FIRSTS AND CHANGE
DETECTIVES'

SUMMER: 'UNDER AND OVER THE OCEAN' AND 'FOOD GLORIOUS
FOOD'

KS2 Y3 & Y4:

AUTUMN: 'ROMANS IN BRITAIN'

SPRING: 'LIVING THINGS'

SUMMER: 'THE STORY OF ST.MARY'S HOUSE, BRAMBER'

KS2 Y5 & Y6:

AUTUMN: 'THE ANCIENT GREEKS'

SPRING: 'REACHING THE PEAKS'

SUMMER: 'LOCAL WATCH'

School visits are planned to support topic/project work, wherever possible.

More details and information on the school's **CURRICULUM FROM SEPTEMBER 2015** will be found on the school's **website**.

A TENTH 'Y5&Y6 MUSIC FESTIVAL' for Chanctonbury Schools and 'WHOLE SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL' for Ashurst Primary, and a SIXTH Chanctonbury Schools' 'Y2 MUSIC FESTIVAL', are all planned for **SPRING 2016**. Another **ASHURST MASTERCHEF/BAKE-OFF COMPETITION** is planned for **SUMMER 2016!**

The annual **Y5&Y6 Residential Field Studies** visit to **SWANAGE** is booked for **June 21st-25th 2016**. There will be a special presentation opportunity for respective parents in the second half of the Autumn term.

Teams are set to represent the school in: the annual **Football Tournament (Y5&Y6)** in **October 2016**, the senior pupils **Tag Rugby Tournament** in **March 2016**, the senior pupils' **Cricket Competition** in **June 2016** and, of course, the **Annual County Chess Competition 2015-2016**. Plus various inter-school sporting events for **ALL** year groups.

Pupils in the upper school will continue to produce the termly Newsletters for the '**Ashurst Parish Magazine**', the '**Annual Y6 Pupils' Report to Governors and Parents 2015-2016**' and to **meet with Governors at the FGB at the end of Summer term 2016**.

There are **after-school clubs** in: **Chess, Football, Rounders, Athletics, Cricket and Netball** planned throughout the year.

Ashurst parents are to continue supporting in school weekly with reading in both KS1 and KS2.

MRS CROFT will be supporting Assemblies and the teaching of **RE** in school in the Autumn and Spring terms again this year.

The **NHS FRUIT & VEG SCHEME** is set to continue throughout 2015-2016.

Respective senior pupils are to undertake the '**Y5 CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME**' in Horsham and '**Y6 BIKEABILITY PROGRAMME**' at The Towers in the Spring term.

Throughout 2015-2016, the school intends to continue monitoring pupil progress across the curriculum and especially in Maths and English. It will be working with all schools across the Chanctonbury Locality once again to share and disseminate effective practice. A copy of **School Development Plans 2015-2016**, with all priorities, can be found on the school's website and at the 'Visitors' Desk' in School House.

Within the school's **LOCAL OFFER** on the website, there is information for parents and carers on the availability of support for Locality Schools and Chanctonbury families with child-care, breakfast and after-school clubs.

We look forward, as always, to working closely with parents to ensure a strong home-school *partnership* throughout 2015-2016.

For those *new* to the school:

- A copy of the Annual **Review & Preview** is sent home in September every year, with Dates for the School Year - including **INSET DAYS**
- **Home-School Partnership Newsletters** are sent home at the beginning of each half term (by email) and posted on the school's infant and junior notice boards **and on the school's website, together with copies of the current Review & Preview.**
- The school's website has a **Curriculum link** which is updated with pictures and information on what we have been doing and on what we plan to do.
- There are **Sharing Assemblies, Open Afternoons** and various school performances for **ALL** parents and friends to attend.

- There is a **HOMEWORK POLICY from 2015** with advice and guidance on how to support children out of school hours and **Homework surgeries held by teachers** available after/before school to respective parents and pupils.
- There are opportunities for new parents to come in to school to observe lessons and to discuss classroom practices.
- There are opportunities for all parents to come in to school formally, to discuss their child/children's progress with their respective classteachers.
- There are opportunities on formal school '**Comment Forms**' for all parents to provide feedback on school events and occasions.
- In the Autumn term, parents receive a '**Report on Parents' Annual Evaluation**' of the previous academic year.

The school's Ofsted Report of March 2007, DfE 'Letter to Parents' of July 2010 and Diocesan Inspection Report of November 2012 are available on the school's website.

We trust that if parents have any questions/concerns relating to their children's education that they will contact the school immediately. There is an *open door policy*, which means the school is always available to you.

As part of normal practice, the Headteacher is always on the playground **before** school starts everyday and teachers are always on the playground **at the end of school** each day, to discuss urgent matters/concerns and/or to share children's on-going work, as appropriate. All 'Newsletters to Parents' finish: 'Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns.'

THIS AUTUMN we have:

- The '**SEPTEMBER SPONSORED WALKS**' for **ALL** pupils.
 - **INTRODUCTION TO FAPS** for new parents - in school 2.30pm - 3.20pm **TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015**.
 - **THE FAMILY BARN DANCE** on **Friday September 25th**.
- The **HARVESTING of BUMBLES GARDEN 2015** - and planning for **SPRING/SUMMER 2016**

- **HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS at St James' Church SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2015**
- **Y3&4 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** for pupils, staff and invited guests in school 11TH NOVEMBER.
- **'BBC CHILDREN IN NEED' £1.00 Non-Uniform Day FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER**
 - **WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**
 - **RECEPTION CLASS/INFANT NATIVITY**

As always, we look forward to working together to make this academic year another very happy, successful and rewarding one for all at Ashurst Primary.

Mrs J A Williams, Headteacher. 1st September 2015

The **'2014-2015 Annual Report to Parents and Governors'** by Y6 Pupils And the **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2015-2016** can found on the school's website, together with all Newsletters and 'Reviews'.

***Website address:**

<http://www.ashurstcofe-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk>

Do please visit and e-mail the school with your comments

