The Parish of Great & Little Bourton, Oxfordshire

Annual Parish Residents Meeting

Tuesday April 10th 2018 at The Village Hall, Great Bourton

Cropredy School Governors’ Report presented by Mr Andy Bird,

Chairman of Governors

Cropredy School has a clear plan and is working hard putting in foundation work to improve the school. We have a clear vision underpinned by our values –

Our Vision: ‘We believe in inspirational teaching that encourages every child to gain confidence and strive for personal success.’

Our values: ‘Care, create and challenge in a Christian environment.’

To ensure this is delivered, we have agreed our strategic governance priorities; these are the longer term projects to deliver the school vision. The governors are committed to maintain the ethos and values of the school. The projects are

* Improve our communication
* Improve our pre school partnership
* School staff restructure
* Road Safety (including parking)
* Improve financial resilience
* Inspirational teaching to improve outcomes for children
* Improve the school environment
* Listen to parents

In 2016, some governors resigned and the governing body was replaced with an Interim Executive Board. Full governance resumed in September 2017; we now have a very skilled and committed team of governors. We are learning fast and have a clear focus this year on school improvement; we will consider academy status during the next academic year.

Our pupils are from Cropredy, outlying villages and from north Banbury in approximately equal numbers. We have marketed the school on the new housing developments to increase our numbers. We have 179 pupils on roll; an increase of 11 from last year – our capacity is 210 and we are working to increase our pupil numbers.

The recent Ofsted inspection judged the school to be a mixture of good and requiring improvement; overall we are judged to be requiring improvement. This is similar to the governors self-assessment. We have also had a self-initiated school review and this has helped to identity the key areas to improve. Our performance committee is chaired by Claire Moore, a senior private sector executive and we have a clear focus on improvement.

We monitor our budget carefully to make the best use of limited resources; the finance committee is chaired by Chris Kaye, a qualified accountant. This has not been helped by recent government changes which have reduced funding per pupil. We have had confirmation that we will receive over £200,000 to be spent on infrastructure from the Great Bourton development and we are consulting on how best to use this money. We are very grateful to the Bourton’s clerk, Stephen Bowen, for bringing this to our attention; the Headteacher and Chair of Governors are meeting with Oxfordshire County Council at the end of April to understand what we can spend this money on. In the short term we are investing in a new assessment system - better pupil performance information will focus teaching and improve results and a new website because most prospective parents look at school websites first.

We have a very good team of committed and dedicated staff led by Mrs Hilary Stevens, our Headteacher; sadly a few are leaving this year due to retirement and career changes and we have advertised for new permanent teachers. We are increasing leadership time in school as this is critical in delivering improvement.

We have very good pupils and Ofsted noted their good behaviour. Most of our leavers this year have been offered high school places at their preferred school, including many to Warwickshire schools. Pupils do exciting activities to complement their learning such as Victorian days, Roman cooking, visits from the Fire and Rescue Service etc. We continue to invest in Forest School and the School Farm.

We very much want to improve our partnership working and would value any offers of assistance – for example with the school restructure so we invest the infrastructure money wisely for the benefit of the whole community as well as the school.

Andy Bird, Chair of Governors, Cropredy School. April 2018