

11/9/20

Headteacher Report – St Lawrence Primary School Parent Teacher Association 2019/20

St Lawrence Primary school is a strong community, and this year with the specific challenges of Covid 19, we have worked together with our families more than ever.

For school, this meant making some rapid decisions around how we would provide remote learning, contacting more than 60 families who work in the essential services and met the criteria for a place at school, working out a communication strategy, implementing new safeguarding and child protection procedures as well as looking after ourselves, our families and our loved ones. For parents, this meant working in partnership with the school to educate their children (bypassing the usual 4 years of initial teacher training) as well as the real challenges of juggling their own working from home commitments.

It is a testament to our parent community, to strength of the parent's partnership with school, and to the absolute commitment of our staff, that we were able to navigate our way through these months with the minimum of disruption to the progress of our children.

From the outset, we knew that we had the support of the PTA as Emma, our Chairperson, sent a thoughtful and greatly appreciated message of support, offering any financial resources that we might need. We were fortunate in that we were able to provide iPads and laptops to children who needed them through our school resources, but am conscious that this would not have been possible without the legacy of financial support provided by the PTA over the years, putting us into this fortunate position by bolstering our school budget.

One of our deepest regrets was for the Year 6 children, who had been looking forward to their French residential but had to cope with the disappointment of not being able to go. Their resilience shone through though and there were no grumbles. The PTA paid for a leavers' present for each of them which I know they really appreciated and will be able to keep as a memory of their years at St Lawrence.

Over the past two years, the PTA has extended its role beyond fund raising, acting as an invaluable link between school and families and providing community-based events. More recently, the committee has become a sounding board for ideas and innovations within the school. The challenge and support offered during our meetings about initiatives to stretch and challenge our children to achieve their best has been invaluable and has been part of the reason behind the academic success of our children this year.

I am very proud to be able to report that our year 6 outcomes compare very favourably to those of our statistical neighbours'* in 2019 (when they were last reported) and that we were able to stretch a greater proportion of our students to achieve the highest outcomes despite school closures this year.

As proud as I am of our children's academic success, we all know that St Lawrence School is about so much more than this and that the PTA are a fundamental part of sustaining a well rounded experience for our children. They have loved the hot dog days, the movie nights and the school discos as well as the Christmas gifts, parties and cinema visits.

I would also like to extend particular thanks for the PTA's financial contribution towards bringing our payment system, parent consultation sign up system and visitor sign in system into the 21st Century with some new technology. Parents (and staff) will soon start to see the benefit of this when they sign up for the Autumn term parent consultations through the new online system.

As we move on through the year, we will be finding ways of returning to as much business as usual within the Government's guidelines. We are pleased that the very special atmosphere created through the children's curiosity and fascination in lessons has never felt more palpable, that we have our breakfast and after school clubs back up and running and that our after school sports clubs are all getting back on their feet.

As always, we are looking forward to working closely with the PTA to enrich our offer to the children and their families in this new academic year, whatever it may have in store for us!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks on behalf of all of the staff and children at St Lawrence school for everything the PTA do.

Amory Charlesworth

Headteacher.

*Our Statistical neighbours are the eight schools that have the most similar levels of EAL and Jersey Premium. These are Mont Nicolle, St Clement's, Les Landes, St John's, St Martin's, Grouville, St Mary's and Trinity.