



17th July 2018

A very successful year at Crossdale...

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of a year that has been both our first full year as a member of [Equals Trust](#), and also the first full year that we have operated in a formal collaboration, under a single Governing Body with KPNS, we wanted to write to you to share some of the great things that have been happening at Crossdale.

Crossdale is a wonderful school and your children are delightful! All staff at Crossdale know just how special the children are and how rewarding it is to work alongside them each day. The children's positive attitudes to their school and their excellent learning behaviours are often commented on; over the last year their behaviour has been complimented by visiting headteachers, deputy headteachers, our School Improvement Advisor, school Governors and a whole plethora of visiting professionals, parents and even maintenance staff! Many of our visitors spend their whole professional lives working in different schools, so their feedback reflects very positively on the children's excellent behaviour, which is something to be very proud of.

Academic standards

The children's wonderful attitude to school has led to excellent academic outcomes this year:

Reception, Year 1 phonics and Year 2 SATs

The results we report nationally for children in Reception, our Year 1 phonics results, and the headline SAT measures for children in Year 2, all compare very positively with national, Nottinghamshire and Rushcliffe schools. This excellent start to life at Crossdale has culminated in some fantastic results for our children at the end of Key Stage 2:

Year 6 SATs

At the end of Key Stage 2 children take SAT tests in reading, maths, and grammar, punctuation and spelling. Schools must also report a teacher assessment for writing – this assessment can be validated for accuracy by external moderators which was the case for Crossdale in 2017.

The government set a key performance indicator for schools based on the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. Schools are also judged by the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in each of the four subject areas individually.

In 2018, Crossdale's headline measure for children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined is higher than the 2017 average for all schools nationally, in Nottinghamshire and in Rushcliffe. A result to shout about!



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Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: Crossdale (2018)	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: nationally (2017)
English reading	92%	72%
Mathematics	83%	75%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	83%	77%
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	75%	61%

Our combined result and the results for *all* of the individual subjects increased between 2017 and 2018. Furthermore, *all* of these attainment measures also showed increases between 2016 and 2017. Our efforts to ensure the highest academic outcomes for the children in our care are bearing fruit – the percentage of children achieving at least the expected standard in all areas has increased for two consecutive years.

Enrichment

At Crossdale we work hard to ensure the children experience a broad and balanced curriculum. This has been another strong year for enrichment at Crossdale. Highlights have included:

- Residential visits for all classes from Year 2 – Year 6 (We have taken over 100 children away - locations included Robin Hood's Bay, Beaumanor Hall, Ravenstor Youth Hostel and Peak Venture in Yorkshire)
- A music concert with over 60 children performing, playing a variety of instruments and singing
- The choir performing at the O2 in London and the Albert hall in Nottingham
- Whole class ukulele lessons for Year 4
- A sports week with over 16 different sports led by specialist coaches
- Children have participated in more than 50 sporting events, involving 18 different sports teams - around 75% pupils at Crossdale have taken part in extra-curricular activities and events.
- The girls' football team reached the final of the county cup
- Forest Schools activities for all classes and a whole school forest schools day
- Visits to support curriculum delivery, including a trip to Tutbury castle and the Space Centre in Leicester
- Specialist visitors coming into school to enrich the curriculum including an author and a story teller
- A Christmas concert and our summer production of Aladdin – all children had the opportunity to be involved
- A range of after school activities, including chess, art, abacus club, drama and Lego club
- Raising awareness and/or funds for at least 12 charitable causes, enhancing our community engagement

We know how much the children gain from these experiences and we are constantly looking for more opportunities to provide exciting extra-curricular activities.

Resources

At a time when there is much bad news about school budgets in the media, it's great to report that Crossdale's budget has been very healthy this year, allowing us to improve and enhance the resources at our disposal. For instance, careful financial management has allowed us to buy almost 40 new computers, replace the WIFI network and replace all of the interactive teaching panels in school.

Successful grant applications have also allowed us to replace the whole school roof and all the windows, making the building warmer, dryer and more pleasant for the children to learn in. These two items alone cost almost £500,000.

On a day to day basis the healthy budget has also meant, unlike many schools, we have been able to maintain our complement of teaching assistants who help provide comprehensive support for our children, from English and Maths to nurture provision.

Extended Provision

September will see the new preschool room, located in the old caretaker's bungalow, opened as we launch Windmills Childcare. The conversion of the bungalow saw an investment of over £80000 aimed at providing the best possible environment for our preschool children. The launch of Windmills Childcare, a separate entity established by school governors, will allow a dedicated team to focus on the needs of children in preschool, breakfast and afterschool club, and holiday club.

The Windmills team will be made up of many familiar faces from Busy Bees, but they will be joined by new team members, including a qualified and very experienced Early Years teacher - Mrs Gerrard, who will oversee and guide the quality of provision in preschool, breakfast and afterschool club, and holiday club.

Crossdale Family

With great support from our school community, we value the notion of the Crossdale Family as much as ever. Our 'Friends of Crossdale', including [the 11k](#) committee, continue to work tirelessly to organise events that bring the community together and raise funds for the school. We also have a strong and experienced staff team who work together every day to support the children at Crossdale. We have a mix of expertise that, alongside our links with Keyworth Primary and Equals Trust, ensures we can keep the school moving forward and improving. A special mention for Mrs Ingle is needed at this point – she has now worked at Crossdale for 30 years!

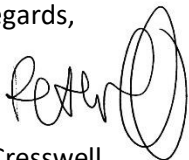
And finally...

As we move towards the new academic year we already planning more improvements at Crossdale. Curriculum developments and improved playground facilities are just two projects we are currently developing.

Staff and governors feel this has been a positive year at Crossdale and we wanted to share our thoughts with parents and carers. However, we are also keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions. As such, at our parents' evening in October, school governors will be in attendance to talk to those present and also offer you the opportunity to complete a parent questionnaire. It is our aim to analyse the results of the questionnaire and feed the results back to you at a parents' forum in early November. We will keep you posted about this next term.

On behalf of staff and governors we would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a wonderful summer break.

Kind regards,



Peter Cresswell
Executive Headteacher



Sam Seedhouse
Head of School