

## Annual Report to Waldringfield Parish Council April 2014

We pride ourselves on being a small, family school where individual needs are met and all involved in our school are listened to and respected. On a daily basis this ethos is seen through a calm learning atmosphere that gives all children the opportunities to succeed.

The children are fundamental to our school and throughout the year the school council continues to meet weekly, the children facilitate and clerk the meeting very effectively whilst the rest of the school listen attentively.

We enjoy celebrating achievement and the weekly Sharing Assemblies are very popular and the children chosen to represent their class are very proud to show and display their work.

In September we were pleased to welcome an OFSTED inspector into our school. The school was graded as good, we were delighted with this grading as the criteria for the different grades has changed since we were last inspected in March 2010. The report correctly summarises the strengths (and weaknesses) of our school. If you do have the time to read the whole report it can be found on the OFSTED website.

The headlines were:

*"Parents and pupils describe Waldringfield as one big happy family where everyone works harmoniously. We care, we share, we learn together underpins every aspect of school life"*

*"Parents are very supportive. Many choose the school, even though it is not their nearest, because they like what it does and how it does it. One typically stated 'We have been overwhelmed by the friendliness of everyone'"*

*"The Headteacher and governors have brought about improvements to teaching and pupils' achievement since the last inspection"*

*"Pupils have a very strong work ethic. They engage particularly well with activities that are relevant and presented in an interesting way. When given the opportunity to work together, such as in outdoor learning, they are focused and their conversations are task related"*

*"Play and lunchtimes are very happy occasions when pupils of all ages, both sexes and all ethnic groups play happily together and look out for one another"*

I was delighted that our inspector had seen the family ethos and the happy environment that I think makes our school unique.

Our school roll is currently at 99. This is the biggest our school has been since anyone connected with our school can remember! Looking through old school log books, our school has grown considerably since 1989 when the school roll was 58.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Seeley at the end of this term. Mrs Seeley has taught at Waldringfield for 26 years and has been an instrumental part in so many families lives over the years. She will be greatly missed. I am this week, appointing a new teacher to fill the vacancy from September. The school remains a committed team of individual staff and other stakeholders working hard to do the very best for all pupils, so that we can all care and share and learn together.

I am always seeking new ways with which we can involve ourselves in the community of Waldringfield. Thank you to all of those who supported the children at the recent Sport Relief Wheelie challenge, it was such a beautiful sunny day, showing Waldringfield village and our children off at the best!

Thank you all for your continued support, in a very successful year for our school.

