

# Cheapside C. of E. Primary School

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Headteacher  
Mrs Kate Searle

20 July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of a transformational year for the school and so I wanted to reflect with you on the past 12 months.

The major item of course, that has impacted everything that we do, is the expansion of the school. We started the year with 108 children and end the year with 185 – we could never have imagined such rapid growth and it has given us both challenges and opportunities.

It has been wonderful to see so many new faces in the school – there is no doubt that the increased diversity in terms of backgrounds and personalities have enriched the school greatly. What has been so pleasing is the amount of new friendships that have been formed throughout the school.

This has put a big burden on the staff who have had to manage this growth ahead of us recruiting. I am so proud about how they have all stepped up and taken it in their stride, welcoming the new children, integrating them into school life and giving them a rich set of learning experiences. I'd like to thank them for everything they have done and their personal support to me.

We now have recruited a strong staff team of teachers and teaching assistants who will compliment our existing staff members for the coming school year. I'll send a separate note on this in September.

Particularly pleasing are the SATs results that we have obtained.

## Key Stage 1

	<b>Cheapside 2018</b>	<b>National 2017</b>
<b>Reading</b>	92%	76%
<b>Writing</b>	67%	68%
<b>Maths</b>	79%	75%

## Key Stage 2

	<b>Cheapside 2018</b>	<b>National 2017</b>
<b>Reading</b>	93%	71%
<b>Writing</b>	89%	76%
<b>Maths</b>	96%	75%
<b>SPaG</b>	93%	77%

Well done to all of the pupils and thank you to the teachers, teaching assistants and all staff and helpers involved for all of their sterling efforts.

There are some other great things I would like to highlight as well:

- Olli the reading dog has joined our 'staff' and his presence in the school has created a real buzz and has significantly helped some of our pupils.
- The Forest School has been an enormous success and we are now the envy of many other schools. The children look forward to it, good weather or bad, and it has without doubt improved our learning environment. (Please see email sent earlier today)
- We have had increasing success in friendly competitions against other, often much bigger, schools. Our girls' football team and recent maths win for year 2 are great examples.
- An increase in the breadth and depth of extra-curricular activities that we now offer, including Judo and Sewing.
- A number of exceptional events such as Egypt day, renowned entomologist Dr George McGavin speaking to the children and Year 3/4 exploring a range of herbs and flavours with John Cross.
- To demonstrate how we must also think of others, our houses are all donating the money earned from their points to various charities – Water Aid, RSPCA, Cancer Research UK and Little Princess Trust.

I'd like to thank all of the children. They have all coped amazingly with all of the disruption – overrunning building work, new classes, children changing schools and new children joining.

I was touched by how naturally welcoming and nurturing our existing pupils were to new entrants. This was noted during the recent Outstanding SIAMS inspection conducted by the Diocese who highlighted our very positive Christian culture. Without the enthusiasm and resilience of all our children, it could all have been very difficult.

Thank you also to all of you. A school is most successful when there is a close partnership between staff, governors, pupils, parents and carers. Through a really challenging 12 months, I really feel that we have all pulled together to have a great year overall and make the school even better.

The tough work continues and our finances are still under pressure. Schools are funded on a per child basis, calculated on the numbers registered 12 months in advance. With our fast growth we have funding for a lot less children than we actually have, which puts a strain on us and forces us to

make careful decisions about where we spend the money. So we continue to need your support with fundraising – thank you to the PTA for their leadership here, we really do rely on their efforts.

We are entering a really exciting phase for the school that can only benefit the learning and wellbeing of all our pupils. We all need a break over the summer to recharge - but I am already looking forward to what will be a fantastic year from September. Our school is growing in so many ways.

I wish you all relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

**Kate Searle**  
**Headteacher**