

Appendix D Headteacher's Report



East Ruston Area Infant School and Pre-school

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Report for the Parish Council Monday 20th May 2013

I am pleased to report that East Ruston Area Infant School continues to thrive. It is the only school judged to be 'outstanding' in the local area. We achieve high standards in reading, writing and maths while also holding true to the aim of providing and an exciting, child-centred, outdoor education for young children. Our school has a healthy, environmentally friendly ethos where children receive an education that celebrates all the best aspects of childhood: being curious and creative, learning about nature outdoors, being energetic, enthusiastic and having fun. We believe that a child's first experience of school plays an important part in his/her future educational success. The staff work hard to create a caring, safe and secure school environment. Children at East Ruston are happy, enjoy school and develop a love of learning that we hope will extend throughout their lives.

We currently have 35 children on roll in total; 11 in the reception class, 13 in year one and 11 in year 2. We enjoy being a small school as this allows us to provide activities such as forest school and cooking. We can also maintain a high ratio of one adult for 8 children which helps all children make good progress, supporting the less able and challenging the more able. We are fortunate to have a very experienced and stable staff in school, including 2 teachers, 3 teaching assistants, secretary, cook and caretaker.

East Ruston Pre-school operates in the hall, library and pre-school garden every morning between 9 and 12am. Recently, in response to requests from parents, pre-school has extended its hours to also open for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The pre-school is highly thought of by Early Years professionals and popular with parents as a number travel into the area to attend. Pre-school follows the school ethos of high quality active learning, including sessions of forest fun and cooking. Our baby and toddler group, Baby Roos, meets every other Thursday afternoon. We also offer a breakfast club each morning from 8.00 to help working parents with child care.

We are very fortunate to have amazing school grounds extending out into the woods and meadow. Thank you to the Pools Allotment Association who lease us the land and also help fund our school trips. All the children enjoyed a trip to the Dinosaur Park last week. We greatly value the support we receive from the local community. The Richard Porsen flower bed, provided by the village hall committee, is very colourful at the moment. East Ruston Community Events has offered to help

fund travel costs for swimming or trips and the PTA are planning a big fund raising day on Saturday 15th June. I hope members of the parish council will be able to come along to buy a cake, have their car washed and have a look around the school. Everyone will be very welcome.

Penny Steward,

Headteacher.