



Annual Report

2013-2014

Greek School of Coventry

By Eleni
Tsilipira

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Message from the Chairman of the School

We welcome you to share with us the 2013/14 Annual Report of the Greek School of Coventry. Our aim is to inform the friends and members of the Greek Community, but also the wider community of the aspirations and achievements of our school and to establish a vehicle to regularly map and record the achievements and milestones of our community.



I have been fortunate enough to preside over the School Management Committee since 1994 when the new school premises were built and have worked with many enthusiastic head teachers, teachers and committee members. We have been blessed to be situated in a very attractive part of rural Coventry, very close to Warwick University, from where we have drawn most of our qualified Greek teachers. This has made the task of ensuring a consistent supply of high caliber teachers much easier.

The success of any school is very much dependent not only on the head teacher, school staff and pupils but also on the active support of parents and friends of the school and we thank them greatly for this. We must of course pay tribute to the authorities that take it upon themselves to ensure the survival and progress of Greek schools throughout Great Britain and throughout the generations. For this we are very grateful for the continued support and guidance received from His Eminence, The Archbishop of Thyateira and GB, Mr Gregorios, and the enormous support received from the Cyprus Educational Mission and its Head in this country, for supplying us with books, teaching material and allocating to us and paying the costs for the majority of our teachers.

I would also like, on behalf of the Management Committee to thank our head teacher Mrs Eleni Tsilipira for her relentless efforts to raise the standards of our school and to thank all the teachers for supporting her in this role.

We hope that you find this publication of interest and welcome any comments for improving the presentation and content of the report.

Andrew Papageorgi



Message from the Head of the Geek School of Coventry

This year's report has special meaning within our community. As we celebrated the 50 years of the Greek Community of Coventry, we have the chance to reflect on our history, where we are today, and the continuing journey before us.

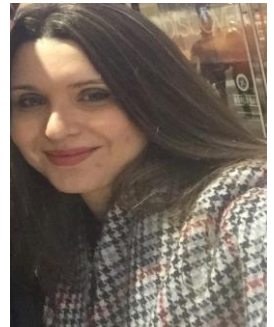
We celebrated the collaboration and community that has been established through our Shared Values, Measures of Excellence, and dedication to offering a vibrant education and Christian Values to our students. At the same time, we look to the future and what it will take to ensure all students are well prepared for success.

We also congratulate all the students who have achieved the best attendance last year as well as all the parents for their excellent cooperation and help! I

I would also like to say a huge thank to our School coordinator, Mr Andrew Papageorgi for his restless offer and efforts to our community as well as our hardworking and passionate teachers.

I hope you find the annual report to be both enlightening and of interest.

Eleni Tsilipira



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www.greeksschoolofcoventry.co.uk
Facebook: Ελληνικό Σχολείο Κόβεντρυ

Hours of Operation

Mondays / Wednesdays 17:30-19:30: Adults Greek Classes - (1) Beginners (x2 classes) and (2) Advanced Level

Thursdays 17:30-19:30: Greek Dance and Other Creative Activity Courses, Adults Greek Classes-Intermediate Level

Fridays 17:30-19:30: As Preparation for Exams, Modern Greek Literature, Ancient Greek, and Academic Writing in Modern Greek

Saturdays 10:30 – 15:00: Reception-A2 Grades

Saturdays 08:30-10:30: As Lessons

Short History of the School

The Greek School of Coventry was first established in 1964 and has come along way since it was housed at Sidney Stringer School.

We trace below the history of the school since the Greek Community of Coventry was first established.

The Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry was first established in 1964 to serve the religious needs of a bout 50 families living in Coventry and the surrounding towns of Banbury, Stratford, Nuneaton and Solihull. It soon became apparent to the founding members and the church committee, who were also young parents, that whilst the church served the religious needs of the parents and grandparents, it was essential to cater for the needs of the children. The future of the Greek Community of Coventry, and in England in general, rested with the children. There was a general recognition to provide suitable accommodation for a Greek school to teach the Greek language, religion, culture and customs.

The religious and educational needs of the Greek community of Coventry were met with the very generous help of the Anglican Church and the local educational authority, by allowing the use of churches such as that in North Street, and Sidney Stringer School.

The growing number of Cypriot families moving to the Coventry area and the dedication of the founding families to have there own church led to the purchase of the current site in 1976. This was a very befitting site as the original building on the site was built in 1847 and with the generosity of Lord Leigh, established the Westwood National School, which was also used as a church, Westwood Church (St John the Baptist) and as a community centre.

By 1976 the number of families comprising the Greek community of Coventry were about 70 and the children numbered about 20 and were served by 2 teachers. The new building acquired was developed and extended to house the church, the school and a community centre. However within 10 years the number of families reached 100 and the number of children doubled, served by 5 teachers. There was a strong requirement within the community for a purpose built school.

In 1989 the Board of trustees together with the Church Committee took the decision to erect a purpose built school with all the facilities of a modern school, comprising 6 classrooms, an office, and a hall to accommodate up to 200 persons. The school was completed in early 1994. By 2000 the number of families who were members of the Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry were 150 and the number children attending the Greek School reached 93 with 8 language teachers and a dance teacher.

The curriculum covers Modern Greek language to AS Level 2, history, geography, religious education, dancing, music and theatre

Due to demographic reasons, today the number of registered children have declined to 70 (Plus 30 adults). Over 100 children have achieved their GCSE exams since 2000 and have left the school. There are currently about 10 children who will be taking their exams in May /June 2014. It is projected that within the next 2-3 years, based on the number of baptisms, the influx of young families from Greece, following the economic crisis there and the current age of children attending the school, there will be a minimum of 80 children attending the school.

Our Mission, Vision and Objectives

MISSION

We recognise that the children give up their precious spare time on Saturdays to attend the Greek School to learn the Greek language. Our Mission is to create a happy, interesting, exciting and caring environment where the children feel valued and respected, through which we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential academically, socially and culturally.

VISION

Our Vision is to establish the Greek School of Coventry as a centre of excellence in teaching of the Greek language and culture and to attract children from the age of 5 up to the age when they complete their A2 Level exams, from all backgrounds and from as wide an area as possible.

OBJECTIVES

Our major aims are to promote the Greek language, culture and heritage whilst we recognise and value the importance of living in a multicultural society. We recognise and celebrate the individuality and diverse contribution and potential of our school community and we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.

Whilst we place a strong emphasis on academic success we encourage our children to adopt Christian principles and to be proud of their background, culture and heritage and to show mutual respect and support for each other and the wider community whilst simultaneously respecting the values and beliefs of other ethnic minorities.

As a supplementary school we aim to create as broad and balanced a curriculum to excite and motivate the children, promoting their enthusiasm for learning and inspiring them to acquire and enjoy a wide range of skills and knowledge. The syllabus incorporates Modern Greek Language up to AS2 level history, religious education, theatre, singing, and dancing.

The School Management Committee is committed to adopting the highest possible standards in running the school. The school has been successful in seeking accreditation from the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (ContinYou) and is planning to seek revalidation of the Bronze and Gold awards whilst our next aim is to achieve the Special Distinction Award by the end of the three academic years.

School Programme

1. Greek Language in two levels: basic and advanced
2. Greek-Cypriot Culture
3. Greek-Cypriot History
4. Greek-Cypriot Traditional Dances
5. Christian customs and celebrations from our Orthodox Religion
6. Greek-Cypriot music and songs

GRADES

1. RECEPTION-GRADE 5 (PRE-PRIMARY & PRIMARY EDUCATION)
2. PRE-GCSE & GCSE LEVEL
3. A LEVEL (UNIT 1 –AS- & UNIT 2 –A2)
4. ADULT GREEK LANGUAGE COURSES

School Management Committee

The members of the School Committee appointed by the Community Board are:

Chairman: Andreas Papageorgi CRB

Secretary : Eleni Tsilipira

Treasurer: Michael Gabriel

Members: Michael Michaels, Harris Orthodoxou , Alex Panteli, Helen Maoudis

School Organisation

The number of children on the roll is approximately 70.

There are six key stages:

Foundation Stage

Reception /Year: 4-5 years old/ First year: 6 year old

Key Stage 1

Year 2: 6-7 years old /Year 3: 7-8 years old

Key Stage 2

Year 4: 8-9 years old /Year 5: 9-10 years old

Key Stage 3

Year 6/Pre GCSE: 10-11 years old / GCSE Level

EDEXCEL GCSE exams

12-14 years old

A Level

Unit 1 Level (AS): 14-15 years old / Unit 2 Level (A2): 15-16 years old

School Contributions

Reception-Year 6 : £ 200

PRE /GCSE-A LEVEL: £ 250

Discount for families with:

3 children-third child: £150

4 children-fourth child: FREE

Teaching Staff Info

Position	Name	Teaching Post	Email
School Coordinator	Mr. Andreas Papageorgi (CRB)	-	andrew.papageorgi@btinternet.com 07775821257
School Management	Ms. Eleni Tsilipira (CRB)	School Management As/A2 Level	elenisykies@yahoo.gr 07553593045
Teacher	Ms. Constantina Kyprianou (CRB)	Reception	_____
Teacher	Ms. Maria Karamanidou (CRB)	Year 1-2	_____
Teacher	Ms. Maria Jacovou (CRB)	Year 2 adv- 3	_____
Teacher	Ms. Kelly Kakoura (CRB)	Year 4	_____
Teacher	Ms Eleni Athinodorou (CRB)	Year 5-6	_____
Teacher	Mr. Antonis Antonopoulos (CRB)	GCSE 1/GCSE 2	_____
Teacher	Mrs. Eleni Maoudis (CRB)	Religious Education	
Teacher	Ms. Dora Eracleous (CRB)	Dance	_____

Teaching Staff

School Management/A Level

Ms Eleni Tsilipira
CEM, MGSS



Reception Teacher



Ms Konstantina Kyprianou
Part-time CEM

Year 4 Teacher



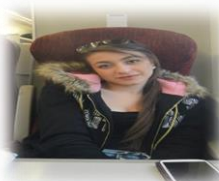
Ms Kelly Kakoura
Coventry Community

Year 1-2 Teacher



**Ms Maria
Karamanidou**
Part-time CEM

Year 5-6 Teacher



Ms Eleni Athinothorou
Coventry Community

Pre Gcse/GCSE Teacher



Mr. Antonis Antonopoulos
MGSS

Year 2 adv-3 Teacher



Mrs. Maria Jacovou
Coventry Community

Dance Teacher



Ms Dora Eracleous
Coventry Community

**Religious Education
Teacher**
Mrs Eleni Maoudis
Volunteer

Children's academic performance

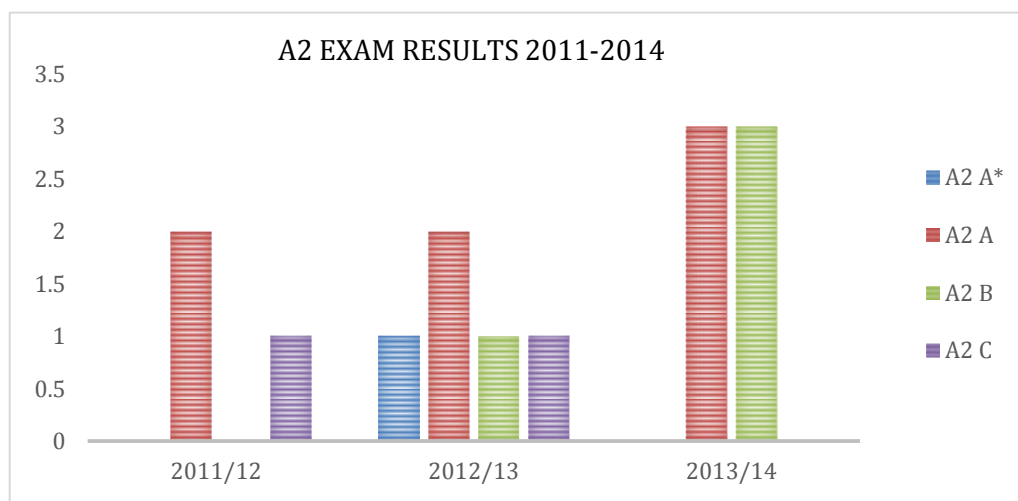
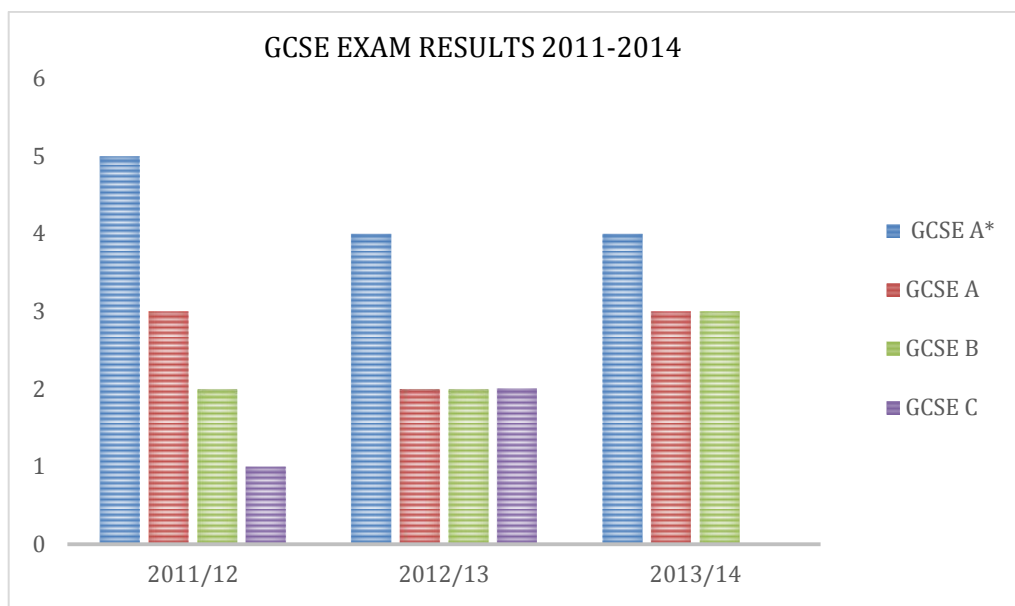
Whilst the school attaches great emphasis on the children enjoying the experience of attending Greek school nevertheless we attach similar emphasis on academic achievement. It is a recognised fact that many of our children have achieved university admission based on their acquiring high grades in GCSE and A Level Unit 1 and Unit 2 Modern Greek Language.

End-of-the-Year School Tests: Performance Results

Reception	12 out 16 students achieved level Excellent 4 out of 16 students achieved Very Good
Year 1-2	13 out 17 students achieved level Excellent 4 out of 17 students achieved Very Good
Year 2adv-3	9 out 10 students achieved level Excellent 1 out of 10 students achieved Very Good
Year 4	4 out 6 students achieved level Excellent 2 out 6 students achieved level Very Good
Year 5-6	4 out 4 students achieved level Excellent

External Exam Results

Exam	No of Children Entered	Results
GCSE	Out of 10 Entries	4A* 3A 3B
A Level-Unit 1(AS)	Out of 6 Entries	3 A 3B



School Calendar

September 2013



Sat. 07
Blessing

Sat. 14

Sat. 21

Sat. 28

October 2013



Sat. 05

Sat. 12

Sat. 19

Sat. 26

Sun. 27

November 2013



December 2013



Sat.
02

Sat. 9
Revision

Sat. 16
Test-Term
A

Sat. 23
Parents' Evening
- Term A

Sat. 30

Sat.
07

Sat. 14

Sun. 15

Sat. 21

Sat. 28

January 2014

HAPPY
NEW YEAR



February 2014



Sat. 04

Sat. 11

Sat. 18

Sat. 25

Sun. 26

Sat. 01

Sat. 08

Sat. 15
Revision

Sat. 22

March 2014



using the difference
Parents' evenings



April 2014

HAPPY
EASTER

GOOD
LUCK

Sat. 01
Test-
Term B

Sat. 08
Parents' Evening -
Term B

Sat.
15

Sat.
22

Sun. 23

Sat. 29

Sat. 05

Sat. 12

Sat. 19

Sat. 26

Tue. 29
GCSE
SPEAKING

May 2014



June 2014



Sat. 03

Sat.
10

Sat. 17

Sat.
24

Sat.
31

Thu. 5
AS
Exams

Sat.
7
Revision

Sat. 14
Test
-
TERM C

Thu. 17
A2
Exams

Fri. 20
GCSE List.&
Read.

Sat. 21
Parents'
Evening Term C

Tue. 24
GCSE
Writing

Sat. 28

July 2014

Sat. 05

Sun. 06 End-of-year play & BBQ

Summer Holidays 12/07/14-05/9/14

Back to School 06/09/2014

✓School as usual ✓School Off ✓School Performances ✓Parents' Evenings ✓School Trip ✓Exams

School Activities

The school has successfully organised 7 presentations/plays by children to demonstrate to parents their progress in mastering the Greek language, dancing and singing. These events are widely supported and attended by the families and friends of the children and are established as major events in the calendar of the community. The children love to take part in these events as they have the chance to demonstrate their singing, dancing and acting which they find very exciting. It is a great day for all to enjoy.

Below, you can find a detailed table of the events and a few photos capturing them:

SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR 2013-2014

	EVENT	TEACHER IN CHARGE-SPEECH	CONTENT OF EVENTS
Sunday 27/10/2013 Church	"OXI DAY" Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Kalliopi Kakoura	Poems and songs
Saturday 14/12/2013 School Hall	Christmas Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Christmas Crafts, Christmas deserts
Sunday 15/12/2013 School Hall	Christmas Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Maria Jacovou Teachers in Charge All teachers	Drama, Christmas songs-carols, dance
Sunday 26/01/2014 School Hall	Three Hierarchs Celebration	Speech Maria Karamanidou Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems and songs
Sunday 23/03/2014 School Hall	MARCH 25th, 1821 GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY- THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION - APRIL 1ST, 1955 EOKA GREEK CYPRIOT REVOLUTION DAY	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Eleni Athinodorou Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance
Saturday 28/03/2014 School Hall	Easter Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Easter Crafts, easter candles, easter eggs
Sunday 06/07/2014 School Hall	End of School Year Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance

“OXI DAY” Celebration

On the 27th of October 2013, we celebrated the national commemoration of the 28th of October 1940, when Greek Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas answered a defiant OXI to Italy’s request to cross the country. The celebration was dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence in all areas. Our students wearing olive wreath, the symbol of peace and victory, engaged us in the peace process not only about reducing violence in areas of conflict but also with our families, friends and communities. Our students narrated the shocking events of the Italian attack and German invasion that marked our country in the years 1940-1945 through the poetry of Odysseus Elytis, Nikiforos Vrettakos, Yannis Ritsos, Tassos Livaditis and music of Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Loizos, Giannis Markopoulos and Sofia Remho.



Christmas Bazaar

On the 14th of December 2013, we organized our Christmas Bazaar. It was a wonderful opportunity to purchase Christmas hand-made decorations, gifts, toys and traditional Christmas Desserts from Greece and Cyprus and raise money for our school. On the same day we celebrated our Christmas Party for parents and friends. The greatest reward was seeing so many children and families together in the school.

We are delighted to announce this year we raised nearly £ 300!



Christmas School Celebration

On the 15th of December 2013, was held our Christmas Play “Cinderella” and was a great success. Friends and family joined us in the school hall for this wonderful production. Well done to all of the children who took part, sang the carols and a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who made it possible.



On the 26th of January 2014, we celebrated the annual “Three Hierarchs” Day, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Students gave short presentations and said poems in Greek honoring the Three Hierarchs. We also awarded our GCSE/AS/A2 students for their great success in the exams in June 2013.



On Sunday, March 23 2014, we celebrated with great honor the 25th of March 1821 Revolution against Turkish occupation, the Feast of Annunciation and the EOKA Greek – Cypriot Revolution against British rule. The day once again brought the community to participate in the annual Independence Day. After the Church Service all of our students participated in the parade dressed in traditional costumes and through the plays, traditional dances and songs we commemorated the three important celebrations.



On the 6th of July 2014, we celebrated the end of the school year through our school Play “A magical trip to our wonderful Islands”. We enjoyed a lot our students’ performances. Then, a great BBQ took place with lots of food, dance, traditional games and singing! We also raised approximately £2000, thanks to all our school’s friends!



Educational Trip to Legoland

On the 17th of May 2014, we organized our School Trip to Legoland which gave students educational experiences away from their regular school environment. Students had the opportunity to fly through the treetops to escape fearsome dragons, ride the thrilling rapids, join LEGO divers on a magical underwater adventure on Atlantis Submarine Voyage and enjoyed the UK's only LEGO Star Wars Miniland Model Display. We had a great time! So much fun!



First award in the competition for the 25th of March 1821/1st April 1955-'59

On the 28th of March 2015, our school was awarded by the Cypriot Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Costas Kadis for achieving the first award in the competition for the 25th of March 1821/1st April 1955-'59, organized by the Cyprus Mission of Education. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn about the important facts of the 25th of March 1821 and the 1st April 1955-'59 and build relationships. Huge congratulations to our students for their craft "To patitiri".



Visit of the Minister of Education & Culture of Cyprus. Mr K. Kadis

It was a great honor and pleasure for the whole Greek Parikiaki Community of Coventry the visit of the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Costas Kadis, and the Director of Primary Education, Mr. Elpidoforou Neokleous, accompanied by K. Andrea Kasoulides, Counselor in the office of Mr. Minister, Sunday, May 18, 2014, as part of the first official visit of Mr. Minister in the Greek Community in England and on the occasion of the celebrations for 50 years of operation and action of our Greek Orthodox Church and Community of Coventry. Mr. Minister, and Mr. D.D.E. and the Advisor Mr. Minister were really impressed by the high standard of teaching and learning offered at Greek School of Coventry and the great work of students and teachers to maintain vibrant and alive the Greek tradition and religion but also to preserve our cultural heritage and our history.



Other Indoor Activities throughout the year

Indoor Activities Schedule				
Day	Annual School Blessing	Parent's Meeting Term A	Parent's Meeting Term B	Parent's Meeting Term C
Saturday	7/09/2013	23/11/2013	8/03/2014	21/06/2014

This year, like every year, we had arranged meetings with parents, to discuss their children's progress at school. All teachers were very satisfied working with parents so well. This parent-school partnership can be seen in our pupils' performance results as well, which is a great achievement for all of us!



Summary of achievements for 2013-2014

- ❖ Cypriot Mission of Education Inspections: Successful School Performance
- ❖ Excellent end-of-the-year results, which were discussed with parents, as part of the parent-school partnership: increase in student performance
- ❖ Excellent GCSE & A' Level results: increase in student performance
- ❖ First Prize on the 25th of 1821 competition organized by the Cypriot Mission of Education
- ❖ First Aid Awareness, Teaching and Learning in Supplementary Schools Training, Safeguarding for Supplementary Schools Training, Development and Management of Supplementary Schools, Fire Extinguisher Training Course, Greek Rhythms Dance Teacher Training, New Teaching Techniques Training for Teachers
- ❖ Seven successful open-to-the-public school performances
- ❖ Three fundraising events: a respectable amount of money was raised for the school
- ❖ School website and Facebook pages and School – Parent communication via emails improved
- ❖ Parents'/Teacher's Handbook: an improved version
- ❖ Lesson and Activities Curriculum for every Key stage at school

Conclusion

Another very busy and productive school year has ended. It was a pleasure working with all of our children. All the teachers and volunteers deserve a huge "thank you" for all they did for our students! Without their dedication and tireless efforts our aims would not come true! We are blessed to have such an innovative, hard working and passionate staff of teachers and volunteers who possess kindness, love and integrity. They were working enthusiastically, they were passionate about their work and they made learning interesting, exciting and important. Also, throughout the school year all parents have shown their commitment to giving their child the best possible education and support at home.



We would also like to thank our volunteers, Laura Labrou, Vasiliki Evriviadou and Eleni Agathocleous for their outstanding commitment and efforts towards our school. We appreciate their dedication and time. They deserve most of all our gratitude.

We would also like to thank the reception teacher, Konstantina kyprianou, year 1 teacher, Maria Karamanidou and year 5-6 teacher, Eleni Athinodorou. They offered focus oriented and quality education to our students! We wish them a great time in Cyprus, London and Spain respectively.

We would also like to thank our school coordinator, Mr Andreas Papageorgi and the school committee for taking an active role in our children's education and for helping us achieve our educational goals.

Informal discussions with parents, pupils, stakeholders and friends of our community, and also the results of various mini surveys than were implemented throughout the year, concerning our school, have shown that the education of every child in the Greek School is complete and successful only when teachers and parents work together to broaden the knowledge of our Greek/Cypriot heritage.

This report aims to keep you involved and, hopefully, we will receive some comments and feedback, after you go through it, so that we get ideas on how to improve our existing programs and strengthen the education of your children.

Eleni Tsilipira
Head teacher

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH! YOUR COOPERATION MAKES OUR SCHOOL A SUCCESS!!!