



## Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Chair: Mr N Pringle    Clerk: Miss L Brown

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### Governor Newsletter – Summer 2018

It's been another busy year at Upper Beeding and Governors are once again delighted at the progress children have made and the work they've produced. The displays in the classrooms have been excellent this year. We hope you get a chance to visit the school art gallery tomorrow to see the lovely work the children created in Arts Week. We think you could well be buying a good investment if you purchase your child's work!!

### SATS Results and Teacher Assessments

The headline results for the tests are very encouraging. Year 6 and Year 2 children did brilliantly in Maths, Reading and Writing. They scored above average results – well done to all the children and to the staff who have taught them right through the school. We know test results are not the only way to judge a school (we value our creative curriculum just as highly), but they show that children here get a great start to their academic life. There will be an extra focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar next year as we strive to improve performance in all subjects.

### External Visits

It's three years since Ofsted rated the school as "Outstanding". We are pleased to say that education experts who visit the school still endorse that judgement. Mrs Linford and her staff continually strive to improve the school for the children. The latest external report confirmed our judgement that the school is still outstanding in all areas. Here's a sample of a Quality Mark Report from earlier in the school year.

*The school has an engaging and purposeful curriculum. Teaching is strong, and this is reflected in the classrooms with bright, stimulating learning spaces.*

### The School Budget

This year the Governors have signed off the tightest budget we have ever had at the school. I'm afraid that above inflation education costs coupled with an unhelpful review of the schools' funding formulae mean that we have had to sanction cuts to Teaching Assistant hours. This will have a negative impact in the classroom. The school, in our view, uses its money very wisely and always seeks to get best value from suppliers. However, unless the government has a change of heart with the funding of education, we may well have to increase class sizes in the future to balance the books.



## **FUBS**

The Governors would like to thank the tremendous team at FUBS. Their work this year culminated in the school fete which raised an incredible £9000. Thanks to you for supporting the school at these events – we are looking forward to seeing and using the new bike and scooter shelter!

## **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)**

This year Governors have been keen to monitor the progress the school has made in its work to help children become more mentally resilient. There is a lot of evidence showing stress has a negative impact on a child's ability to learn. Teachers have been trained to identify children who need help and we have seen many of the resources and techniques which they can use to help. This is important work and the school will continue to focus on it next year.

## **School Visits and Films**

The governors have had a busy year visiting the school to see the progress of the school development plan. We've been talking to staff and children about everything from Maths and English to the new PSHE curriculum. We are always impressed with the professional and hardworking staff. The children are a real joy – they are always keen to talk to us about their work. We've also produced a series of short films which show the school in action. The films are usually available on the school's website. Here are some links to the films in case you have missed them.

Arts Week 2018 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfF1jyimK\\_s&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfF1jyimK_s&t=2s)

Sport <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV9mNBjZrkg&t=12s>

Book Week <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDKaPHK0Djw&t=3s>

Harvest Concert <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtSQgCQr5So>

## **Summer School Works**

There is a significant amount of work going on in the school over the summer. The floors in the Year 3/4 block need to be replaced following very heavy rain earlier in the year. The work will take four weeks and we are confident that things will be ready for children in September, but contingencies are in place in case the work overruns.

The Governors wish all those leaving the school the very best. We will miss you all! The school production of "What a Knight!" demonstrated what a resourceful and talented group of young people you are.

We hope you all have a great summer.



Neil Pringle  
Chair of Governors

