



Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Chair: Mr N Pringle Clerk: Miss L Brown

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Dear Parent / Carers

Governing Body Newsletter Christmas 2017

As we come to the end of a very busy year in the school I wanted to bring you up to date with some important work going on to make sure that children here continue to get best education possible.

Academic Progress

Governors continue to monitor the academic progress of the children in every year from Reception to Year 6. This year we have set Mrs Linford and her staff ambitious targets which aim to make sure all children are helped to achieve their full potential. Last year, the school did a brilliant job at getting most children to the new age-related expectations. We understand that some children will not reach that standard but their progress is equally important and governors have been impressed by the way staff support all children to do their best. We hope you can see plenty of evidence of this in the work your child brings home. This year, governors want the school to get more pupils to the next level of attainment, known as "working at greater depth". We will be visiting the school to see how this is being done through our creative curriculum.

Writing

Over the last year the school has been working hard at making sure written work is not only creative and expressive but also has accurate spelling and grammar. The way children's work is judged has changed with the new curriculum and we want to make sure that brilliant creative ideas are reflected in their final outcomes. Governors have been keen to see how the school has been focussing on spelling strategies and making sure children review their work to make it even better. This is another area we'll be focussing on during the academic year.

Creative Curriculum

It's been great to see the children enjoying brilliant new experiences and activities in school this term. The Christmas productions and this term's assemblies show us how confident the children are, performing in front of an audience. They seem to love it too! The Harvest Festival concert was seen by many of the village's more senior citizens - one remarked that the show was better than anything in the West End! We visited on Science Day to see rockets blasting off from the school field and children in Year 5/6 investigating a possible murder (complete with dead body!). Visiting theatre groups, lovely class displays, school trips – the list goes on. We'd like to thank all the staff for their energy and ideas which continue to make the school "Outstanding".



Social and Emotional Needs

This year, the governors are supporting the school on a long-term project to support children to thrive in an ever more complicated and stressful world. We want all children to be able to express their feelings and emotions so they can cope with the pressures of modern life. Over the next three years, the school will be working to help children become more emotionally articulate and resilient. Governors will be hearing about how staff will be further trained to support all children and help those with particular needs. We will keep you updated on this important area of school life.

Supporting Other Schools

Upper Beeding Primary School is playing an even greater part in supporting other schools in West Sussex and beyond. We have welcomed many observers to see the work of Sue Quigley and her staff in Reception – it's great that the school is recognised as an example of the very best practice in this area. Our Head and senior teachers have also been visiting other schools to work with them, passing on some of our best practice. This helps to bring in some extra income to the school as well as giving our staff new opportunities. Governors will continue to make sure that this work doesn't compromise teaching within our school and that staff are not over-loaded with extra work.

The school has had another brilliant year, visitors who assess the school continue to agree it is an excellent place for your children to learn. It's always lovely coming into school as the children are so well behaved and keen to tell us what they are doing.

Thanks as always to all the school staff who make it all possible.

Have a great Christmas!

Best wishes



Neil Pringle
Chair of Governors

