



Upper Beeding Primary School

Governing Body

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Chair: Mr N Pringle Clerk: Miss L Brown

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Chair of Governors' Newsletter Summer 2020

This is a school year we won't forget in a hurry and sadly, for all the wrong reasons. I'm afraid Covid-19 has dominated life over the past few months. Its impact on the school has been the main focus of the Governors as we have supported Mrs Linford and her team through the changing landscape of lockdown.

The Headteacher and Staff

This has been an incredibly challenging time as the rules, guidance and requirements have changed constantly and often at very short notice. Mrs Linford has had to re-organise the way the school runs many times. Each time a huge risk assessment has been created which Governors have signed off. I mention this, as it's easy to take for granted the way the school has handled all the twists and turns in a calm and caring way, so that the children have been supported and key workers have been able to get on with essential jobs. There has been a lot of attention on vulnerable families who have been hardest hit too, and the school has distributed food parcels and managed food vouchers as well as have as many children as they can in school.

The Governors are proud of the way Upper Beeding Primary has responded; we think communication with you has been clear and has set the right tone, and we appreciate the stress and long hours of work this has created.

Home Schooling

I know as a parent that at times, helping to educate your child while juggling all the other work you have to do, can be tricky. The school has continued to develop the resources available using the VLE and we have seen some lovely work from children, some of which we have featured on our twitter feed. The good news is that children will be back at their desks in September when we can leave the job of teaching children to the experts! Thank you for your help with this.

September

The school has developed a plan for the Autumn term which begins by supporting the emotional well-being of the children, then exploring where the children are on their learning journey, and what then needs to be done to get them back up to speed. There will be an initial focus on English and Maths with other subjects being blended in as the term progresses. The school is adamant they will not lose their creative, broad and balanced curriculum which we know supports the emotional and physical well-being of all children. The school will look at how to support children with particular needs with extra help in the same way as they do in any other year – but we expect those needs to be more significant.

The Governors will monitor progress next term. Normally we would do this by visiting the school and talking to staff and children, but initially, for safety reasons, we will have to continue to do this remotely as we have done over the last few months. (I think we're all becoming experts in Zoom conference calls!).



Years 2,3,4, and 5

I am really sorry that children in the middle of the school have not been able to re-join in the Summer term. The school would have loved to have had them back and Mrs Linford and the team looked into the possibilities, but the rules meant that we simply did not have the capacity in space and staff numbers to operate safely.

Year 6

The Governors have also been sad that the children in Year 6 did not have the usual Upper Beeding send-off. The school production and the residential are always highlights of your time in Year 6 and it's a real shame that this year those were denied to them. The staff have worked hard to make sure that children make a successful transition to secondary school and there are some end of term treats. It's a shame you have missed out on the Leavers' Assembly too, but you will certainly have saved the cost of the box of tissues while watching it.

Goodbye from me....

This is my last term as Chair of Governors as I am standing down from my Governor role. I have really enjoyed supporting the school over the years as it continues to thrive. As a parent I feel really lucky that my daughter has been here for the last seven years and as a Governor I feel privileged to have helped the outstanding team who care so much about every child.

And hello from Coralie

Coralie Willmott will be taking over as Chair in September. I wish her all the best.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Governor, please contact the school office. It is a wonderful way to give something back to the school, and whatever your life-skills, there will be an area where you can help make a difference.

I wish you a calm and care-free summer. We all deserve a bit of a break. Let's hope the next school year is a bit more straightforward.

Best wishes



Neil Pringle
Chair of Governors

