



Upper Beeding Primary School

Governing Body

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Chair: Mr N Pringle

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Tuesday 16th July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Governing Body Newsletter Summer 2019

After another busy and successful year at the school, I'm writing on behalf of the Governing Body to update you on some of the things we have been doing to support the staff in delivering the very best opportunities for the children. The first thing to say is that the school has continued to be considered "outstanding" by all external visitors and assessors over the past year. It is four years since our official Ofsted outstanding grading in 2015 and it's important that the school does not stand still and rest on its laurels. Mrs Linford and her staff are very proactive at evolving the school to meet the needs of the children.

Here are some examples: This year the school has revamped the way it teaches Spelling and Grammar, there's been a review of the subjects covered in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), it has continued to focus on the mental well-being of children, and the school has supported other primary schools in West Sussex which can benefit from the excellent practice here.

The Governors have met with staff, visited classes and spoken to the children to make sure any changes are working. We are always impressed by the enthusiasm of the staff and the attitude of the children.

Funding

The number one challenge for the school is the continuing crisis in education funding. This year's budget is the tightest we have ever approved and, for the first time, the school can only balance the books with the money that comes in from our school support work. We continue to look at ways of saving money. This summer new LED lights will be installed across the school to cut down on the electricity bill. However, the only long-term solution is in the hands of the government. We understand that there are many departments looking for more money, but so far, their response to the shortfall in education funding has been pitiful. We will continue to stand up for your children's education – investment in the children of today is recognised by so many as the key to the prosperity of the country in the future.

SATS Results

We recognise that academic achievement is just one measure of a school's success. The quality, richness and fun of the learning is important too. Next year Ofsted - the body which inspects schools - will be focussing more on the wider school curriculum. This fits in well with the school ethos at Upper Beeding and we are confident that our offer of academic progress, joy of learning and opportunities for new experiences is just the sort of thing they will be looking for in the future.

However, reading, writing and maths continue to be a focus and every year we aim to beat the national standards in the Key Stage 2 SATS tests. This year the children have excelled once again - a huge credit to them, and all the



teaching staff in the school. We have achieved the highest ever number of children reaching the age-related standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. More children are reaching the level of greater depth too.

There are really encouraging results across the school from the new reception year, the progress of children in Key Stage 1 and the annual phonics check. The Governors will be looking at the results in more detail, going behind the headline figure to be sure that all children are doing well.

Staff Changes

This summer sees a number of changes to the school staff. There will be new teachers and TAs in various classes - I hope you have had a chance to meet some of them at the recent Welcome Meetings. Mrs Linford is delighted with the appointments the school has made and we had the chance to meet some of them at the Governors' end of year tea with staff.

When we visit the classrooms, we are struck by how well the teachers know the individual children, their strengths and areas to work on. It's also good to see how well teaching assistants work alongside them supporting children with additional needs. The parents' survey which we organised earlier in the year highlighted how much you value the quality and commitment of the staff too. We are very lucky to have such a great team, well managed by the school leadership team. They all deserve a good summer break!

FUBS Summer Fete

The Governors congratulate FUBS for another brilliant year supporting the school. The summer fete was not only a spectacular fundraiser, bringing in a record amount, but also was a wonderful day out for the village community. This year the weather was kind and so many visitors were impressed by the scale of the event – “more like a festival than a school fete” was one lovely observation.

FUBS provides many of the extras which are now beyond the scope of our budget (see above!) and we'd like to thank the organising committee and the many, many parents and supporters who get involved in making it a success. A wonderful example of the whole school pulling together.

Another Busy Year

So ends another busy year. So many highlights – the award of the Gold Artsmark, the Gold Sports award, the end of year production “Ye-Ha!” and the special Book and Sports Weeks where the children enjoyed many new experiences.

The latest videos, which give you a flavour of the school at work, are on the front page of the website, you can see behind the scenes at “Ye-Ha!” and the visit by some sporting stars earlier this term.

This link will take you to them: <https://upper-beeding.eschools.co.uk/web>

The new school twitter feed is a good way to see more photos of school life in the year to come. Please follow us – the latest picture from the KS1 seaside day is not to be missed! <https://twitter.com/beedingprimary>

We hope you get the chance to enjoy lots of time with your children in the summer break.

Best wishes



Neil Pringle
Chair of Governors

