



Upper Beeding Primary School

Governing Body

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Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

What a year it has been! I know that life continues to be incredibly busy for everyone so I'd like to thank all those who took the time to fill in this year's parent survey. As Governors it is important for us to hear your views. Your feedback helps us to understand how you are feeling about the school, what is going well for you and your children and identify any concerns that you might have. We are delighted to see that, after another disrupted academic year, the vast majority of you are so positive about your child's experience at Upper Beeding.

This year continues to be challenging for everybody, as the events of the past week have illustrated only too clearly. I am aware, through personal experience, that isolation has an impact on the entire family and is both difficult and disruptive. I would like to thank those families who have been affected, recently and over the last year, for their continued support and cooperation, it is truly invaluable! No school ever wants to send children home, we are definitely living through strange times.

Without doubt a generation of children are living and learning in a way we could never have envisaged just 15 months ago! The staff have worked hard to adapt to the changing requirements, when necessary moving lessons on-line and engaging with your children and indeed yourselves remotely followed by helping the children transition back into school. They continue to work tirelessly to ensure that Upper Beeding is providing your children with quality education and looking after their mental wellbeing, in times that are still quite far from normal. Your children have coped brilliantly, adapting and continuing to work hard showing great resilience of which they, and indeed you, should be incredibly proud.

Google Classrooms

As a parent I appreciate the steep learning curve we have been on not least with regard to technology! The introduction of Google Classroom to Upper Beeding, prior to the lockdown in January, proved to be a great success. The benefits were clear to see when staff assessed your children's progress both during the lockdown and when they returned to school. Whilst nothing can replace the experience of being in the classroom this platform allowed children to continue to achieve and progress from home. When they returned to school, they did so with fewer gaps in their knowledge so that they were ready to move on to the next stage of their learning. We recognise that mastering a new system takes determination by both the parents/carers and the children and we greatly appreciate your support in this. Teaching remotely is not easy but it is easier and so much more successful with engagement.

Changes to the School Day

Before I get to the headline results of the parent survey I wanted to address a concern expressed about the staggered start and its impact on children's learning time. Firstly, thank you for sharing your concerns as it allows us to reassure you that, following adjustments to the school timetable including lunchtime and transition times, your children are in lessons for the same amount of time as they were pre- COVID-19. They are not missing any of their lesson time with their teachers.



My child is happy at this school.	96%
My child feels safe at this school.	98%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	98%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour/bullying	96%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	98%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	95%
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	93%
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	92%
The school has high expectations for my child.	98%
My child does well at this school.	97%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	93%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	98%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	96%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	94%
I would recommend this school to another parent	98%

New Questions for 2021

The school promotes the physical wellbeing of my child, e.g. through PE, sports and healthy eating	97%
The school promotes the emotional wellbeing of my child, e.g. how to cope with emotions, how to get help when upset.	96%

School Survey Results

It is fantastic to see that so many of you feel that your children are thriving at the school and that the staff and school are providing a wonderful environment for them to start their journey in education. I have included the headline results below:

We appreciate that not every parent is happy with all aspects of the school. I would urge those who have concerns and question to keep talking to the school. Please speak to your child's teacher or the school office so that any issues your child may be experiencing can be addressed. As Governors we are in no way complacent, and questions raised in this survey will be discussed with Mrs Linford and her team.

We are also aware that, for some parents, the staggered start times are having a negative impact on their scheduling. We are hoping, as restrictions ease, to review this and Mrs Linford is looking at other options which may work for the school.

I thought I would end by sharing some of the lovely positive comments we received via the parent survey:

UBPS is such a great school. Well done to Mrs Linford and all her wonderful staff.

Will take this opportunity to say, thank you to all at UBPS for everything, my daughter loves being at UBPS and we as parents feel very safe and secure in sending her in each day. The staff that we have dealt with have always been very understanding, helpful and professional.

I continue to be extremely impressed by how UBPS strikes the tricky balance of well-being and academic progress. Both of our children love school and this is mainly due to the excellent relationships the staff ensure they have with each individual child. This year has been incredibly challenging but the school team has done everything possible to help the children (and parents) through. Thank you so much to everyone involved.



Introducing the Google class room system, has been a great improvement this year. It has helped my daughter a lot when home learning, but she also knows what homework is coming up when using it. I think the children having a good knowledge of how to use Google Classroom will help them a lot when they transition to Steyning.

Fantastic school. Thank you

As Governors we would also like to pass on our thanks to Mrs Linford and the staff. Partial school closures, remote learning, last minute lockdowns, not to mention the additional cleaning that goes hand in hand with COVID-19, have considerably added to the already heavy workload for the staff. Without exception the team have worked tirelessly to ensure that every child remains safe and gets the very best education possible. They have done so with great determination and resilience whilst, thankfully maintaining their sense of humour. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and professional team and we hope they get a well-deserved rest over the summer.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your children a lovely and safe summer break and we very much look forward to seeing your children back in school in September.

Kind Regards

Katie Watts

