



## Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Chair: Mr M Gordon

Clerk: Miss L Brown

July 2014

Dear Parent and Carers

As Chair of Governors I endeavour to write to you all at the close of each term to give you some idea of the major activities of the school and the Governing Body. As we complete the last part of this academic school year we wish to inform you of some of the changes and challenges faced by the school as we look to commence the Autumn Term.

Firstly, we have been kept up to date with the introduction of the new National Curriculum which is a new mandatory requirement issued to Local Authority maintained schools by central government. Much effort has been made by both the staff and Head Teacher to ensure this is effectively planned and managed in readiness for September. The Governing Body has scrutinised this and are satisfied with its proposed deployment next term. This reflects well with the capability of both the teaching staff and Head Teacher who have been instrumental in its development.

Secondly, we will also see the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for which there has been much logistical planning and re-organising of the lunch period to manage this requirement.

In the Autumn Term we will see the total school pupil numbers rise above 320 which we have not seen for a number of years. This is not only as a result of larger reception intake, but also with parents and carers moving into the local area and choosing Upper Beeding Primary School for their children.

One of the most important decisions we as Governors make is the budget for the next school year. The Governors continue to try to make the best provision available for all the school within the available resources. Much of this comes down to detailed day-to-day management of all aspects of the school activities. The Bursar (Rosie O'Hara) manages the budget well in conjunction with the Head Teacher Becky Linford. Over the past year we are also grateful for FUBS and the fantastic effort and commitment they contribute to the school – the school Summer Fete was a record year in raising funds and the Governing Body thank all involved.

As I write to you we have just received the result of the latest SATs tests and the data is very encouraging, maintaining our high expectations. This will be further scrutinised by the Governing Body over the Summer Break and into the Autumn Term. Indications are that we remain above County and National school averages in Maths and English. This is as a result of the efforts of all teaching staff for which the Governing Body are grateful.



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As we close the Summer Term and enter the Autumn Term we will be expecting an inspection by OFSTED for which there has been much preparation over these many months. You will have received a parent survey with your child's recent Annual Report and the Governing Body always welcomes your feedback. Also you will see Governors on the morning school gate as well as during school events, so please take time to speak to us on any thoughts you have regarding the school. May I also take this opportunity to remind you that there is also the Ofsted Parent View site where you can register and provide feedback:

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/schools/for-schools/parent-view/parent-view](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/schools/for-schools/parent-view/parent-view)

I also want to let you know about a wider discussion we're about to undertake. It's the duty of all Governing Bodies to be aware of changes in the world of education which may affect us here. As part of that responsibility we have decided to explore whether Academy status might be a benefit to our children's education. Over the coming year Governors will be doing their own homework on the subject! We have no preconceived ideas on what we might find, it may be that we think such a move to become more independent of local authority control would not reap any benefits, but as Upper Beeding Governors it is our duty to carefully review and consider this. We wanted to let you know at this very early stage because any such process should be as open as possible. If you have any early thoughts we'd love to hear them. Please email me.

In conclusion, the Governing Body is delighted to see the good progress being made by so many children at Upper Beeding Primary School this year. We'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting your child, as well as the staff and congratulate all the children on another good year's work.

I wish you a pleasant Summer Break.

Malcolm Gordon  
**Chair of Governors**



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