



Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Chair: Mr M Gordon Clerk: Mrs B Hibbert

23rd March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the spring term draws to a conclusion I wanted to write to you all and update you on several areas to support the school the Governing Body have been busy working on.

SCHOOL DATA REVIEW

As I write this newsletter we await the imminent Ofsted inspection. Under the current inspection regime, Ofsted have been asked to consider data over a three year period and not solely focus on the current year's KS1 and KS2 RAISEonLine outcomes. Therefore on behalf of the Governing Body I am pleased to report we have now completed the detailed analysis of the 2014 Data which is now available on the Ofsted Dashboard.

It is good to review our data in light of our last Ofsted inspection which was in March 2010. This judged our attainment on entry at Foundation Stage as outstanding whilst attainment (standards) on leaving our School at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) was average when compared to the national profile.

The last 2010 Ofsted Report stated that with regard to English that 'although attainment is average it lacks behind the high results achieved in Mathematics and Science' and that the inspection looked at the reasons for lack of high standards in English.

Our analysis of the school performance based on the last three years indicates the school has made strong progress and I now report on the main headings of Phonics, Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Phonics

In 2012 the Phonics Screening Check was introduced to children at the end of Year 1. For the last two years 80% of our children have achieved national expectations or better. This is above the national average as are the results for disadvantaged pupils in the School.

It is early days yet to begin any 'trend' analysis of the data from this new check, but at the very least this confirms the good phonics work our staff carry out with the younger children in the School.

Early Years

The judgement made in our Ofsted inspection in 2010 was Outstanding Progress for Early Years. The overall data for 2014 (and the previous years) reflects continued outstanding progress from when the children start in Reception to when they leave.

Key Stage 1

Generally Key Stage 1 data for this year is also considered very strong. 2014 levels were recorded well above the national average and also showed continuous improvement for the last two years 2013 and 2014. The results identify Attainment at Key Stage 1 for Reading and Writing consistently above the national average.

In the last Ofsted report 2010 English was identified as an area for development. English remains a key focus for the School and was a major factor in introducing the 'Talk for Writing' initiative throughout the school. We are now seeing the impact of the scheme on KS1 and KS2 results and interim progress reviews also indicate a continued positive impact.



A priority on our School Improvement Plan since 2011 has been to sustain results above the national average and the latest results confirm this.

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 continues to show strong progress for all subjects for the last 3 Years. For Key Stage 2 we have now seen continued improvement achieved for Reading and Writing for the last 2 consecutive years.

However there is still work to do in the improvement of English Spelling Punctuation and Grammar (ESPG) where results in 2014 were disappointing and not reflective of sustained progress made in other subjects. This is a key area identified for improvement by the Governors and Head and is being addressed by the school through various measures and is being closely monitored by the Governors.

Summary

The trend over that last three years data indicates continued improvement across the whole school but there is still work to do and no room for complacency. The Governing Body hold termly meetings with the Head and key members of staff to monitor and review pupil progress and ensure that effective measures are being taken particularly where specific areas of improvement is now required (e.g. ESGP).

HOMEWORK POLICY

Following the Parent Questionnaire results I reported to you in my autumn newsletter the Governors have taken further soundings from parents and carers regarding the issue of Homework. Following this analysis it was agreed that the school should clarify the amount of suggested time spent on homework throughout the week, either in the homework books or on the top of the sheets and topic letters.

A parent stated that they were happy with the amount of homework as the children will be better prepared for the Grammar School. The feedback in general was mixed, indicating that it is very difficult to please everyone but the Governing Body will continue to review this issue.

LOCALITY SCHOOLS GROUP REVIEW

The governors are pleased to report that as a school we continue to develop the good working relationship with our local schools and this will continue into the future. After further exploration all the locality schools have agreed that there currently is little need to formalize or develop this further as the current arrangement is working well.

MATHS WORKSHOP

Our feedback from this event indicates that the recent Maths workshop was well attended and the feedback we have is that it was appreciated by parents and carers. Further workshops are planned for the future and we are grateful for the members of staff who manage and present these events.

STAFF CHANGES

At the close of this term we say farewell to Miss Dani Brown who has been a committed and valued member of KS2 staff over the past 3 years. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new post and thank her for the time she spent with us at Upper Beeding.

At the beginning of the next term we will welcome Dani's replacement Mr Brian Jones. We believe the wealth of experience he brings will be beneficial to the school and I hope you will make him feel welcome as he settles in.

If you ever wonder who exactly the Governors are and what we do then can I please invite you take a moment and visit the school website where we are all clearly identified along with our roles and responsibilities.

In closing all that remains is for me to wish you a Happy Easter as we look forward to the return to school refreshed and ready for the summer term.

M A Gordon
Chair of Governors

