



Upper Beeding Primary School Governing Board

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Chair: Mrs V Stevens

Clerk: Miss L Brown

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Dear Parents and Carers

This is my first letter as Chair of Governors, a role I was appointed to in April. I have been busy getting to know the school, the staff and children, and I have been struck by the creative, happy and nurturing atmosphere within the school.

Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor, Ms Louise Davies, who sadly passed away last October. I know that she was committed to the school and had made an important contribution to the school community. Her memorial garden is now blooming and can be enjoyed by all.

It has been a busy year for the Governing Body, here is a snapshot of some of our work over the last year

- Supporting Mr Andrews in his first year at Upper Beeding to ensure that the strategic direction of the school and school development priorities build on the strengths of the school and take account of the needs of the children in our care.
- Monitoring the learning of all children by looking at evidence of pupils' progress, discussions with school leaders, visits to classrooms, and most importantly talking to children so that we gained a real understanding of what it is like to be a child at Upper Beeding. We know from our visits that the majority of children enjoy their learning, can talk about the curriculum with increasing knowledge, and feel safe.
- Monitoring the school budget to ensure that the school is financially viable and that spending decisions meet the needs of the children. This remains a challenge within the current financial constraints.
- Reviewing the provision in place to support the needs of all learners and to ensure pupil wellbeing by supporting new initiatives including the Small Garden and the Reading Garden, both of which now provide calm quiet spaces for those children who need it.



- Reviewing all Safeguarding Policies and checking practices are in place through school visits, that regular safeguarding training is held, and that safeguarding is at the centre of the school culture.
- Supporting the Head Teacher in appointing a Wraparound Care provider which will be of great help to many of you I am sure!

This is only some of the work undertaken by the Governors - from September we are planning to put regular updates on the school website to keep you informed throughout the year as well as a termly letter from myself.

Throughout the year the Clerk has worked with the Governing Body to make sure we have met our statutory duties. You can read more about how the Governing Body works, our committee structure and roles and responsibilities on the school website. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Governor please contact the school office for more information!

Parent Consultation

Thank you to everyone who completed the Parent Questionnaire. We had 77 responses and of these 95% agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy and felt safe at Upper Beeding. Reading through the questionnaires provided us with lots of positive feedback which will be shared with the staff. The survey also highlighted a very small number of concerns which were discussed at our last meeting. As a result, we will be reviewing how often parents are asked for contributions to school or fundraising events and how we can streamline payment and communication methods.

And now time to say a huge thankyou to the FUBS team for all their hard work in fundraising for the school. The amount raised at the Summer Fair was amazing and a testimony to their hard work. Thank you also to everyone who supported FUBS either by donating items or spending money on the day.

Thank you also to Mr Andrews and all of the staff at Upper Beeding for their hard work and commitment over the last year.

Good luck to the Year 6 children as they move on to their new schools, we wish them every success for the future.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable summer .

With best wishes

Vivien Stevens

