



Upper Beeding Primary School Governing Board

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Chair: Mrs V Stevens

Clerk: Miss L Brown

July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As another busy school year is drawing to an end I wish to reflect upon the achievements of the school and most importantly the children as well as provide you with an update on the work of the Governing Body.

It has been a joy to see the successful introduction of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) and the impact it has had on lunchtime play for the children. On visiting the school recently, it was wonderful to see children building camps, playing in the mud kitchen, scootering around and generally having fun! We are so fortunate to have so much outdoor space for the children to enjoy. A big thank you to you all for sending your children in with wellies, especially as the school field was a lake for a period of time this Spring, and also for donations of materials that are providing the children with a wonderful variety of creative play experiences. Feedback from staff is that children are coming in from lunch play happy and ready to learn and therefore OPAL is having a positive impact and is demonstrating the commitment the school has to the wellbeing of the children.

We have worked hard as a Governing Body to fulfil our core functions, (see more detail on school website) through committee and full Governing Body meetings as well as monitoring visits. Over the last year Governors with specific responsibilities have been in school meeting curriculum leaders, visiting classrooms, talking to teachers and most importantly talking to children to find out what it is like to be a pupil at Upper Beeding Primary School. Areas covered have included Safeguarding, English, Maths Science, SEND, Disadvantaged pupils, and Health and Safety. In all visits we have found that children talked with excitement about their learning and especially the way that learning is made fun, they felt safe and supported and overall enjoyed being a pupil at Upper Beeding.

One of our biggest challenges as a Governing Body is ensuring that the school budget is balanced at a time of diminishing resources. I would like to thank Mrs O'Hara and the leadership team for their hard work in planning the budget to meet the needs of the children as well as the ensuring that the school building and estate is well maintained.

Thank you also to FUBS for their amazing fund raising over the last year with a total of £6072 being raised just at the Summer Fair alone, and to you, the school community, for coming to events and supporting them.

A further thank you to everyone who completed the Parent Survey. We received 45 responses and of these 91.9% said their children were happy in school, 97.7% that their child felt safe at school and 100% that they would recommend Upper Beeding to another parent. We have analysed and discussed the comments in detail at our recent Governors' meeting and have plans for how to reduce costs for parents in the coming year. I have also been contacting anyone who asked to discuss their responses further.



Finally thank you to Mr Andrews and all the staff for their commitment to the learning and wellbeing of the children and to the children themselves for their hard work over the last year. We especially extend best wishes to our Year 6 children as they move on to the next stage in their new schools and to the staff who are leaving us this term. I would like to say a particular thank you to Dr Gwilliam, our SENCo, who is leaving after 20 years at Upper Beeding.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable Summer and I, and all the members of the Governing Body, look forward to meeting many of you at school events in the new school year.

With best wishes

Vivien Stevens

Chair of Governors

