



Governing Body

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Chair: Mr N Pringle Clerk: Ms L Brown

Monday 17th July 2017

Dear Parent / Carers

Governors Newsletter Summer 2017

As we approach the end of another school year I wanted to bring you up to date with the work of the governing body of the school over the past few months and some thoughts on areas we'll be looking at in the coming year.

Governor Visits

This year governors have spent even more time in the school observing lessons and talking to staff and children about their work. We've spoken to children about transition through the school and have talked with Year 6 children about how well they feel prepared for the move to Steyning Grammar. We've looked at the way the school is using the extra money it gets for vulnerable children and for the provision of sport. We have spent time observing and capturing the creative curriculum the school actively engages in and a small snapshot of these can be found on the school website. We are always made to feel welcome by all school staff and are struck by how engaged the children are in class, the pride they have in what they are producing and how enthusiastically they talk about their work.

SATs Results

We have been closely monitoring academic progress of children across the school throughout the year and were delighted with their performance in the recent Y2 Teacher Assessments and Y6 SATs tests with the school achieving above National figures.

We know that test results don't fully reflect the education of the children at Upper Beeding, there are many parts of our broad curriculum which are never assessed by them. We also know that tests can't reflect the emotional development of children or the confidence that the children show us every time governors visit the school. However, they are a useful benchmark to help us prove that children here have made excellent progress during their time at the school. Well done to all children and staff who have worked so hard to achieve such good results.

External Visits

Recently the governors took part in a review of the way the school is run. An independent assessor looked at the work of Mrs Linford and her senior and middle leaders. She also looked at how well we as a governing body support and challenge the school. I'm pleased to say the assessor judged the school to be Outstanding in all of these areas:

"The headteacher has an ambitious vision and high expectations of all staff and pupils at the school."

One of the great strengths at Upper Beeding Primary is the way that teachers at all levels are encouraged and supported to make an impact on improving the school. We were delighted that this was also highlighted in the report.



The work of the staff and pupils was also complimented by the external moderator of our KS2 Writing assessments. The strong teamwork of year 5/6 teachers and the wide range of strategies to help children to write creatively was seen as a particular strength of the school.

Safe to School

Through the year we have been helping the school address the safety issues around drop off and pick up times. We are still working with West Sussex County Council on better road markings. We were delighted that Upper Beeding Parish Council funded a new path making it easier to use the car park by the Squash Court and playground. We will continue to work to make the road safer but we need your help in parking considerately too. We really want to make inconsiderate parking a thing of the past after the summer holidays.

School Funding

Schools across West Sussex have been campaigning for fairer funding through the year. We believe Upper Beeding deserves better funding and had a day of action to help spread that message. As yet the new government has made no announcement on money for state schools or the funding formulae which is being reviewed. We hope for positive news. The governors are pleased that the school is using its budget wisely and we are relieved that we are not the worst affected school in our county. We have approved next year's school budget, it is tight, there have been cuts to Teaching Assistants but, with careful management, we think the school should be able to maintain its very high standards.

We would like to thank the army of supporters of FUBS for raising so much money through a range of fun events this year culminating in The Summer Fete. This was a fantastic success and FUBS did a wonderful job organising, running and clearing up afterwards. It was enjoyed and appreciated by the whole community of Upper Beeding and we are all excited to see the new Adventure Trail funded by all their efforts.

Over the summer holiday period there are some further improvements to the school site with work being done on enlarging the staff car park and creating a clearer defined pathway. We hope this will further support the work on safer parking.

Next Year

We have been talking to Mrs Linford about the priorities for next year. We will continue to work at ensuring children have a sound grasp of the expectations in Maths and English while maintaining our creative curriculum. There will also be a focus on further developing our understanding on how to support and meet the social and emotional needs of children. We also want to continue supporting other schools who are benefitting from the expertise of the staff and leadership team.

Our recent parent survey showed that parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school, our remit of governors is to make sure that continues to be the case so please contact me at the above email address if you have any thoughts or concerns we could help with.

Have a wonderful summer break, good luck to all children leaving us – we will miss you!

Yours sincerely

Neil Pringle
Chair of Governors

