



Upper Beeding Primary School Governing Body

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Chair: Mrs C Willmott Clerk: Miss L Brown

Wednesday 31st March 2021

Chair's Letter to Parents Spring Term 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Well, what a tale of two halves it has been! Suddenly thrust into another national lockdown and partial school closure just as the children were starting back to school after Christmas, and now the other end of the term where we have seen the return to school for all children again. Simply keeping up with the constant changes at the moment is pretty exhausting, so it's huge thanks to the parents for patience with this. I know Mrs Linford has felt particularly supported by parents, throughout this difficult time.

As well as the support from parents, Governors have had the opportunity to hear from Mrs Linford and other members of staff about how well they are coping with the ever-changing situation. I am pleased to report that, whilst it certainly hasn't been an easy time, staff have continued to feel valued and supported and in turn have continued to provide the best learning experiences for the children as they can.

There is, of course, a focus on making sure that all children continue to progress in their learning and an emphasis on filling the gaps of any skills they have missed, but over and above this is the focus on the wellbeing and mental health of the children. As Governors we believe this is absolutely the correct approach, and will allow the children to continue to thrive in the safe and caring environment that school is.

During the partial school closure, it was very valuable to all children, whether still attending school or learning from home, to be able to access the same work via Google classroom. Governors had been introduced to this new online learning platform in the lead up to Christmas, before then seeing it quickly put into action sooner than we thought. Teachers report that this has been a far superior way of managing learning from home, going some way towards the children all remaining on track with the same learning content and remaining in closer contact through live online sessions and recorded lessons. As Governors we were impressed with how quickly the school adapted to this, and have heard reports from the staff about how much more streamlined this approach has been compared to the school closure last year.

I am particularly pleased to report that some of our well-loved and much missed activities look to be able to take place this summer. The year 5/6s have taken part in auditions for a summer production, school trips appear to be on the horizon, and FUBS are continuing to invent wonderful new fundraising ideas and I'm sure they have plenty more up their sleeves too!

On a final note, I would like to express, on behalf of all of the Governors, huge thanks to the staff and all members of the school community for their hard work and continued dedication to provide enriched, fun and excellent learning opportunities for the children.

Wishing you all a fantastic and restful Easter break, hopefully with plenty of sunshine.

Best wishes

Coralie Willmott

Chair of Governors



