



## GOV'NEWS – SUMMER 2017

Welcome to the final update from your Governing Body for this school year. It has been a busy, but successful year as we reap the rewards of all the hard work of your children and the staff

**This year's SATS results** - We are delighted to report that the recent SATs results showed a consolidating of our '**significantly above**' national attainment position. Nationally, the results have seen a sharp rise since last year and our results have matched this. Reading continues as a strength with the improvement in Maths over the past few years most marked. Writing, with the 'secure fit' model, continues to be a challenge and has remained on a stable footing this year, continuing to be above the national figure.

**OFSTED update** – we knew another school inspection was due before the end of term and it finally occurred on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July. We are limited by the amount we can share at this point but we are greatly looking forward to the publication of the report in September 2017. Thank you to all those who responded to the Ofsted survey during the inspection



**Governing Body Membership** – We have enjoyed full membership of our governing body for some time now and I would like to thank all of our governors for the hard work and commitment they give in supporting the running of our school. It looks like we may have the opportunity to welcome some new governors in the next school year as some will be coming to the end of their term of office in the autumn term. If you are interested in increasing your involvement with the school then please check the school newsletters for information on these opportunities. I would like to give a special thank you to Elaine Leonard, one of our staff governors who is leaving this school year, and has given us many years of valuable service. We wish her all the very best, as she moves on to her next adventure in life.

**The single plan – brought into focus** - The single plan, which has proved invaluable in the progress made within the school, has evolved to better focus on specific subject areas. We have already shared:-

- Single Plan 2 improving “Explaining ideas in Maths”
- Single Plan 3 improving “Writing and Presentation”
- Single Plan 4 improving “Thinking Scientifically”

All are serving to drive forward achievement and learning.



To ensure the plan is being followed and remain relevant the Governors have carried out a full summer schedule of monitoring visits including:-

- Literacy monitoring visit
- SATS administration monitoring inspection
- Pupil Premium monitoring visit
- Standards and Excellence Commissioner with a Headteacher from a partner school
- Safeguarding monitoring visit

Our thanks and congratulations go to the Year 6 children and staff for these excellent results which again show the effectiveness / impact of our single plan.

**Multi Academy Trust (MAT) update** - we are continuing through the due diligence processes with a view to Barnes Farm Juniors joining with 5 local schools to form a MAT, and you will have received a letter earlier updating you on the process. Based on the current timelines, we expect the full consultation to go out to parents and staff late October 2017, to give you the opportunity to have your say. The respective Head Teachers and Chairs have been working hard some time to bring this opportunity to you, along with the governors are doing everything we can to ensure this represents the best opportunity for the school and our children going forwards

**Sad farewells** – as we come to the end of another school year, we always have to say a few sad farewells as staff move on to new challenges. This year we say goodbye to:-

**Miss Debbie Rudkin** leaves us to take up a part-time SENCo post across two schools. We are pleased that she has been able to continue her newly found passion for supporting pupils with special educational needs in the light of Lisa Cato's return from maternity leave in July 2017. She has worked at the school for 9 years as a class teacher and established an excellent reputation for calm diligence and great teamwork.

**Mrs Elaine Leonard** has decided to leave to 'try something new' after 14 years at the school. Her work, particularly as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, and as a staff Governor, has given great service to the school and its pupils. We wish her well with the new ventures and thank her for her unswerving loyalty and dedication to the school over so many years.

**Mrs Eileen Weir** will be retiring after an amazing 19 years at the school. Her work as an LSA has provided highly individual support to numerous pupils over the years; truly making a difference to those involved.

**Sian Wilson** recently relocated and has been successful in finding a new job much closer to home. She has worked as an LSA for the past 2 years and made a real difference to the pupils she has supported.

**Finally** - I would like to wish all our year 6 pupils the best of luck as they move on to their chosen senior schools and hope your fond memories of Barnes Farm Juniors will stay with you. Thanks to all the parents and children in the school for your support, hard work and help in making our school the very special place it is. Thank you to our excellent staff, the Head, teachers, teaching assistants, lunch time staff, office staff and site manager for their tireless hard work so that our children can "**aim high, and fly higher**".



**Steve Andrews**  
**Chair of Governors**