

Governor Newsletter

July 2017

End of Term Farewell and Thanks

Once again we are at the end of another exciting school year at Uplands Junior School. It is time once again to say goodbye to our year 6 pupils, their families. We hope all our children leave with happy memories of their time at Uplands and wish them well in their new secondary school.

Staff Changes

Sadly, Mr Booth will not be rejoining us in September. Mr Booth has worked as Teaching Assistant for a number of years both in the class room and with individual children. We wish him well in his new post. A new Teaching Assistant has been appointed this week and will join us in September.

Both Mrs Gaunt and Mrs Dattani start their maternity leave soon. They will be covered by two new members of staff. Mrs Cain joins year 4 and Ms Williams will join year 5. Both start at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Governor changes

Governors would like to thank Ms Sam Hicks who has volunteered as a Parent Governor for the last four years. She has made a valuable contribution to the board particularly focusing on the impact of Pupil Premium funding in the school. Our best wishes to her and her family.

With a change of job and greater work commitments David Hughes steps down as Chair of Governors in September. David has held the role of Chair for many years guiding the school and board through many changes, restructures, two Head Teacher appointments and has seen the school successfully maintain a 'good' judgement with Ofsted. The members of the board, past and present and the staff at Uplands are very grateful for all the support, time and dedication David has shown to the school. David will remain as a member of the Uplands Board of Governors and a new Chair will be appointed in September.

We would like to thank all the staff, children, families and friends of the school who have supported Uplands Junior School this year. A big thank you to the PTA who continue to organise events and purchase equipment and resources for the children. THANK YOU.

Parent View

A link to Ofsted's parent questionnaire 'Parent View' can be found on 'Parent' section of the school's website.

www.uplandsjuniorschool.org.uk

Parent Governor Role at Uplands Junior School.

In September we will have a vacancy for a new Parent Governor at Uplands. We will send out more details on how you can apply and vote in the Autumn term. In the meantime here is some information for you to consider over the summer.

Being a Governor

The role of governors is to provide strategic direction. The Head teacher has operational responsibility for the school.

Governors are the point of accountability for the senior leaders and form part of the overall leadership team. How well education is delivered, the results achieved and how well the school is financially managed are all part of what governors regularly discuss. The important questions to governance are "why" and "what". We look at impact and the standards achieved. A typical question may be "£15,000 was spent on new laptops. What was the impact of that?"

Governors work as a team. No one is expected to know everything and your contribution helps the governing board to support school to be the best it can be. All governors are unpaid volunteers and the governing board recognises that you will give what time you can. This may vary year to year depending on what your circumstances are and what committees you join. Developing your role as a governor will take time. There is new jargon to learn, courses to attend and understanding the way governance works. Many of the skills you will learn may be directly transferrable back to where you work or in some other aspect of life. Some employers give paid time off for governors, it may be worth asking.

What are the good bits about being a parent governor?

- ✓ You have a very privileged and responsible role
- ✓ You have the opportunity to influence the future development of the school, not only for your children, but for children for years to come
- ✓ You have the opportunity to make a difference for other parents and influence the way the school works with them
- ✓ You will be able to put existing skills to good use and learn and develop new ones

Speak to any of our governors next term for more information on the role and potential time commitment and training.

Well on the way to... 'Outstanding' ofsted 2017

We were extremely pleased to receive a judgment of 'Good' following our Ofsted inspection in March. We were even more pleased to receive such positive and constructive comments from the inspector both in his verbal feedback to Governors and in his formal report. All the areas identified for development were ones we recognised and had plans in place to address. We continue to build on the feedback and continually review our progress. A link to the official report can be found on the school website.

Financial Inspection

Uplands all so received a Financial Audit this term. This is carried out by the Local Authority and mostly focuses on the school office systems and processes and financial governance. This highlighted a few areas for improvement but again an overall successful inspection.

Thank you to all the staff for the hard work that went on before and during the inspections. We know it is not an easy time. We hope they, like us feel the outcomes recognised their efforts and are keen to strive for further improvement.

Year 6 SAT Results 2017

Congratulations

As ever our staff and pupils have worked very hard this year and, with the support of parents, we have had another successful year in terms of academic achievement and SAT results. A new national system of assessing and reporting SATs was introduced last year when the previous system of 'levels' was withdrawn. Children are now assessed as having 'met expected standard' or 'not met expected standard.'

Our results remain significantly higher than national results. We are particularly pleased with our writing results this year and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in all three subjects.

	Uplands 2017 % pupils who 'met expected standard' (2016 in brackets)	2017 National % pupils who 'met expected standard' (2016 in brackets)
Combined (Reading, Writing and Maths)	72% (64%)	61% (53%)
Reading	80% (81%)	71% (66%)
Writing	90% (84%)	76% (74%)
SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	89% (89%)	77% (73%)
Maths	80% (79%)	75% (70%)

Above are the results for Uplands Year 6 and the National results. The combined results are the percentage of children who have 'met expected standard' in all three subjects - maths, reading and writing. In addition to these results we also have the teacher assessments. These have already been given to parents in the school reports and shared with the relevant secondary schools.

As governors, we work with the Senior Leadership Team to analyse all the test results for all year groups and identify opportunities to further improve children's progress and attainment. We are currently working with the Senior Leadership Team to identify school priorities for the next academic year and these results, the Teacher Assessments and the development points identified in our recent Ofsted report help to determine our school strategy for the next few years.

Well done to you all.

New Dinner Service at Uplands

As part of the financial management of the school and in working towards our school improvement priority to become a 'Healthy School,' Governors and the Head Teacher have reviewed the school's catering arrangements. In addition to value for money we wanted to ensure a healthy meal service, offering more freshly cooked dishes, more variety and greater menu flexibility.

Parents, pupils, governors and staff were consulted for their comments on the current catering arrangements and requirements for the future. From this feedback we were able to put our catering service contract out to tender. This was done in conjunction with a number of other schools. The four shortlisted contractors presented to a group of pupils, parents, governors and staff from the various schools. The children in particular enjoyed the food tasting.

Uplands made the decision to offer Chartwells the contract and a new and more varied menu and dinner service will be available from September 2017. We are pleased to pass on the reduced meal cost to parents. The lunch time meal will now cost £2.10 per day. Chartwells will be working with the school to promote Healthy Eating at Uplands.

We look forward to seeing the new service in action next term and will be interested in feedback later in the year.

Uplands School Governors

- Mr Dave Hughes (Chair)
- Mrs Debbie Anslow (Vice Chair)

Parent Governors

- Mrs Juli Forrest
- Mr Gurmuk Singh
- Dr Wen Wang

Co-opted Governors

- Mr Ramesh Kumar QPM
- Mrs Pat Perry
- Ms Rebecca Pick

Staff Governors

- Mrs Webster-Smith (Headteacher)
- Mrs Bull
- Miss Richards

Associate Governors

- Mrs Shakesheave
- Mrs Walker
- Miss Davis

You are welcome to contact governors through the school office

New Leadership Team

Following a formal interview and selection process we were pleased to appoint Mrs Roberts as an additional Assistant Head Teacher at Uplands. Mrs Roberts will join Mrs Webster-Smith, Mrs Walker and Mrs Shakesheave as a member of the Senior Leadership Team. She will continue with her class teaching role in year 6. Between them Mrs Walker, Mrs Shakesheave and Mrs Roberts will lead the teaching of writing, reading and maths across the school.

Our new structure aims to enhance the standard of teaching and results and to ensure consistency across school. The new appointment and structure come in to effect in September 2017.

Wishing you all a relaxing summer break