



GOVERNOR NEWS – ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2016

As we near the end of another school year the Governors would like to share our perspective on the progress made by the school and all the staff through the whole year

The Single Plan - This year has seen the Single Plan (put in place following the Ofsted inspection) be a solid vehicle for changing the school positively. As a Governing body we challenged the robustness of the plan when it was first put together and have continued to ensure it remains challenged throughout the year. At the HMI Inspection in November the plan was given a clean bill of health with some further recommendations.

The plan has seen many changes with the removal of setting in Maths and stronger and more inclusive use of LSAs being two key items.

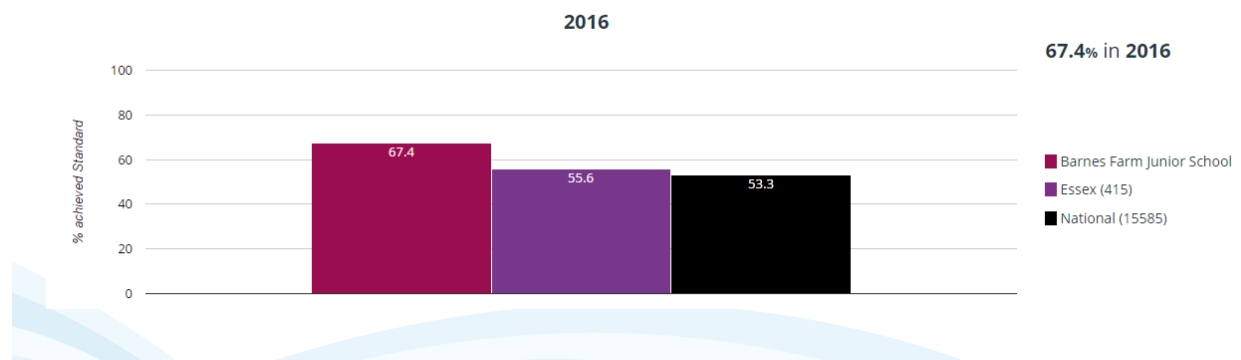
The school, like all other primary schools, has also faced the challenge of the changing curriculum. With this also came the new grading scheme that we assume has been as 'interesting' for parents to understand as for Governors. We are now starting to understand it along with the new Depth of Learning system but it does make comparisons with last year more difficult.

Having said this though, following significant work by all staff and pupils, it is fantastic to see the latest SATs attainment results have shown substantial improvements on last year and have beaten the national figures in all three main areas: Reading, Writing and Maths. The combined result shown below (taken from Mr McTaggart's latest report to the Governors) is particularly impressive!

Reading, Writing and Maths combined

For this significant measure in 2015 we were 7.1% **below** national. In 2016 we are 14.3% **above** national. This represents a swing of over 20% which is hugely encouraging.

 **RWM - achieved standard**





LA Review - During June the school was independently assessed by a Local Authority Teaching and Learning review.

This was like an Ofsted inspection but conducted only over 1 day. As during Ofsted both the school and Governors were assessed. The final feedback was positive with statements such as '*the majority of teaching across the school is securely good*' being made. This of course was balanced by improvement opportunities. They overall concluded that we have continued to make progress towards our target of being judged 'good' or better by Ofsted in 2 years.

The Future of Barnes Farm Schools (update) – following the March Governor newsletter the Government has reversed the decision to force all schools to become academies by 2020. It is clear, however, that the underlying principle being the original decision is still strongly held. To this end the Governors agreed that the best course of action was for us to gain more knowledge of what becoming an academy would mean. As such we have organised training that will be held on the 18th July with both the Infants School and Chancellor Park Governing bodies.

Governing Body Membership - Finally, in September there will be an election for a new Parent Governor so if you consider yourself suitable please look out for the application process opening.

We wish good luck to the Year 6 leavers and hope you all enjoy secondary school and take great memories of Barnes Farm Junior School with you. For everyone else we hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming you and the new Year 3 pupils back in September.

We offer our continued thanks to the staff, governors and parents for their ongoing support and commitment to driving our school forwards.

Steve Andrews- Chair

Steven Wade – Vice Chair

