

Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School
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Headteacher: Claire Jackman

Dear Parents/Carers

Governors' letter to parents July 2018

Modesty probably precludes Miss Jackman from making a fuss. I, however, not being directly responsible for the achievements have no such qualms.

First, and most significantly, I wish to congratulate Miss Jackman, Mr Curtis and Mrs Williamson on the fantastic Year 6 SATS results reported in this week's grapevine. These are truly terrific results and testament to both the students' abilities and their approach to learning, and to the quality of teaching and support offered by our staff.

The results are on average more than 20% higher than the national average and are, as far as we know, the highest reported among the DEEP (Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership) group within which the school works - this partnership includes all the local primary schools in the wider Dunmow area. We are normally in the top 3 in this group. As Miss Jackman points out in the Grapevine, the SATS are the culmination of the efforts of all staff throughout the school as the children progress through the years and of excellent parental support.

Second, the SATS results are important, but they are just one measure of how well a school does, albeit the most important in the eyes of Ofsted. As many of you are aware our school excels in so many ways. Ranging from Reception through to Year 6, encompassing our care for those with special educational needs, our support for those needing a bit of extra help to reach their potential and our challenge of those already achieving well.

Third, extracurricularly as a school we punch well above our weight in sporting events, notably swimming, but in many others too. And we are supported by a very dedicated PTA, who put on enjoyable events and raise significant sums of money to benefit the children - giving up a lot of their valuable spare time to do so. The last grapevine reported a total of

£10,434 for the academic year, which considering the school only has just over 100 families is remarkable.

The school enjoys a wonderfully high level of support from you all as parents and carers, be that assisting in school with reading, the walking bus, clubs, transport to external events and at the PTA's fundraisers. For me the spirit of our school was epitomised by the PTA-marshalled recent success in Tesco's blue token scheme securing £4000 of funding, where we trounced two larger schools.

We of course receive excellent support from the diocese and local church community, and I would like to think we governors play a small part.

Ofsted now makes it very hard for small schools to achieve outstanding recognition, this is because data is judged in percentages and for small schools each child represents a larger percentage than they do in a medium or large school. Therefore, a child having a bad day in a SATS test has a much greater impact for us than it would for a large school, and so achieving consistently high results is difficult.

I do not think we need Ofsted's label to know our school is outstanding. To my mind we have an outstanding head, outstanding staff, achieve outstanding things and have wonderfully outstanding children.

The governors recently sent a survey to Year R parents at the end of their child's first year and to Year 6 parents at the end of their child's time at the school to ask about their experiences and seek suggestions for areas of improvement. From the responses, I would like to close this letter with two quotes.

'You do such an incredible life changing job. We are blessed with GEPS. Thank you for listening.' - Year R parent

'Under your patience and guidance and unwavering support XXX have grown in leaps and bounds both academically and more importantly emotionally. We have been so proud during their time to call Great Easton their School. ... Amazing people and truly unforgettable.' - Year 6 parent

As both a governor and a parent it is a privilege to be involved with GEPS, a sentiment I hope many of you share.

With regards, and on behalf of the full governing body

Jeremy Toynbee
Chair of governors