



**BLAKEDOWN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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02.11.16

**A Letter from the Chairman of Governors of Blakedown C of E Primary School.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

During September a number of representatives of the Governing Body and I took part in an independent 'External Review of Governance' as stipulated by the Ofsted inspector who undertook the school's inspection in June. The report written by the Reviewers is extremely positive and listed 14 areas where the Reviewers say governance is strong covering the whole range of school life including Governors have:

- 'a firm grasp of their strategic function'
- 'are proactive and not reactionary'
- 'performance management of all staff and the Headteacher ensures that appropriate support and challenge helps raise standards but also checks that continuing professional development is robust and timely'
- 'Governors willingly give of their time to attend additional training'
- 'financial management of the school is exemplary'.

The report states that: 'This governing body does not have the feel of one that requires improvement as there are many features to commend. There are positive relationships between governors and school leaders that are based on trust, openness and transparency. The governance supports honest, insightful self-evaluation by the school, recognising problems and supporting steps to address them.'

Some areas for development which the Governors have already addressed (and are continuing to address) are the ways in which we may improve how we link the school's development plan with strategic planning, endeavouring to be less reliant on the Headteacher for information and raising the profile of the Clerk to assist in planning for our 'timely and effective governance'.

I hope you will join me in thanking the Governors, and all Staff members, for their contributions and hard work to enhance the running and organisation of the school, the quality of the teaching and school life in general.

If you would like to read the full 'External Review of Governance' (and I encourage you to do so) you may read it from the school's website on the 'Meet the Governors' page: <http://www.blakedowncofeprimary.co.uk/meet-the-governors/> or by requesting to read a copy held in the school office.

Sincerely,

Fr Paul.

Chairman of Governors.



