



March 2019

Celebrating school successes

Our focus, as always, remains firmly directed at improving outcomes for all children by delivering quality first teaching and maximising progress and attainment in a manner which is consistent with our school vision of *'creating a school that unlocks the potential of every child'*.

Great Dunham is a special place – enjoyment and challenge are at the heart of all we do. We believe every child is unique and aim to nurture them in a happy, safe and secure environment; whilst inspiring them to learn with a stimulating, challenging and exciting curriculum that motivates them to achieve.

The school continues to be popular and we had a cohort of 10 new starters joining us in September 2018, with 1 joining us throughout Key Stage 1 & 2; the number on roll is 72.

There have been many memorable moments during 2018-2019:

- Consolidation of the Primary Writing Project, a talk-for-writing initiative to foster creativity and motivation to write.
- We are a small school with a big heart; our children have raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, the Foodbank, the Royal British Legion (poppy day), Children in Need, NSPCC, Dylan Clifton Foundation, EACH, Make a Wish Foundation and Comic Relief.
- School clubs for children include running, football, homework, fantastic maths, cooking, Dunham Voices and Inspire Sports.
- We are an inclusive school which actively promotes awareness and acceptance of differences; for example, Divali celebrated with Indian Experience; weekly assembly; European Languages Day and Norwich Welcomes; Sean Rose~ Paralympian for sports workshop and talk
- The whole school have benefited from a range of educational visits and interaction within the local school network:

Class	Visit	Related Topic / Learning
Rec/Y1/Y2	Beetley Wood Cross Country at Taverham with WNDSSP Writer's workshop at Litcham~ Y2 KS1 football festival CASMA KS1 Tag Rugby NSPCC ~ keeping safe workshop Dereham Railway Station & MNR	Into the Woods Sporting event Challenge for more able pupils Sporting event Musical event~ performance at Citadel Norwich Sporting event PSHE Journeys

	Henry Blogg Museum	Local history
Y3/4	Kingswood Residential Children's Proms at Theatre Royal Norwich Writers workshop at Litcham Stories of Lynn Museum CASMA Geographical studies at Marl Pit community centre NSPCC ~ keeping safe workshop Easton College	Team building/ PSHE Music Challenge for more able pupils Somewhere to Settle Musical event~ performance at Citadel Geography PSHE Way out West/Food and farming
Y5/6	Greshams Cross Country Cross Country at Taverham with WNDSSP Norwich Castle Crucial Crew~ Y6 Y5 football tournament Dodgeball tournament NSPCC ~ keeping safe workshop Sensational Science workshop at Norwich School Norfolk Schools Opera Project	Sporting event Sporting event WW1/ History PSHE Sporting event Sporting event PSHE Science Performance at Theatre Royal, Norwich
Whole School	Pantomime at Norwich Theatre Royal Royal Norfolk Show Gressenhall Museum	British Values British Values Local history as part of 175 th anniversary of the school

Community Interaction	Date
Fields Familiar, Foreign and Far Away (Heritage Lottery funded project researching men from Great and Little Dunham who died during WW1)	September 2018
Harvest Festival at St Andrews	September 2018
Remembrance Service at St Andrews	November 2018
Remembrance Service at Beeston Church	November 2018
Christingle Service at St Andrews	December 2018
Choir performance at the Crown Rest Home and Dereham Town Centre	December 2018
Various 'superheroes' visited school~ police, fire, paramedic, doctor, vet	Spring term 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the school staff who work extremely hard to ensure that all our children receive the best experiences they can. As a result, standards are maintained and improved. Pupils are happy, safe and have

a love of learning which is evident in their classrooms, their books and their attitudes to learning.

May we also take this opportunity to thank our school parents for the continued and unstinting support of your children which enables them to maximise their potential.

Governance arrangements

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the 3 core strategic functions of Great Dunham Primary School Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In exercising their functions the governing body shall

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and in particular shall be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

The most recent Ofsted inspection, in March 2019, recognised that:

“Governors are honest and accurate in their assessment of the school’s strengths and areas for improvement. They know their roles and responsibilities and take them seriously.

Governors bring a range of appropriate professional skills and experience to the school. Governors cross-check reports from the headteacher with information from other sources and provide a healthy level of support and challenge to the school’s leadership. They are reflective and have a good awareness of school improvement priorities. They are using the school’s information effectively to focus on key areas for development.

Governors manage finances effectively. They ensure that leaders use funding effectively, including the primary PE and sport funding, to provide additional support to meet the needs of the pupils”.

Our governing body has a code of conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually. All governors are obliged to abide by this code.

The current Instrument of Governance (IoG) for the Governing Board of Great Dunham Primary School was signed in 2017. The membership is as follows:

Governor Type	IoG	Appointed	
Parent	4	2	L. Cooper, J. Lakey
LA	1	1	B. Upton

Staff	1	1	J. Whitty
Co-opted	5	3	C. Elburn, P. Gorham, K. Whitlock
Headteacher	1	1	S. Nour
Total	12	8	

Chair of Governors K. Whitlock

Vice-Chair of Governors P. Gorham

In order to discharge their duties effectively the Governing body has a range of skills. These include experience in financial management, teaching and learning, leadership, data and analysis, health and safety, safeguarding and performance management. We work hard to ensure we provide the right mix of support and challenge so that the school continues to develop and maintain a high quality educational experience for every child.

Note that co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, not only have a strong commitment to the school but the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school; on our Governing Board 2 of the Co-opted governors are parents and the remaining is a member of the local community.

In 2018, we sadly said goodbye to 4 governors (1 Local Authority - Mr K Savage, 1 co-opted - Mr G Phillips and 2 parent governors – Mrs C Wild & Mr E Hill); all were thanked for their significant and valuable contribution to the work of the governors. The time and effort required to carry out the role effectively should not be underestimated, and we are fortunate to have a group of talented and committed individuals, all giving freely of their time to work in the best interests of the school and its pupils.

We currently have 2 co-opted governor vacancies, which were advertised locally within the wider community following a governing body skills audit in January 2019. We have received nominations for both vacancies, and the interested parties are expected to attend our next FGB in April.

The Full Governing Board (FGB) meets once each half term, and we also have a Resources committee that meets once each half term to focus on finance, premises and some personnel matters. The committee reports to the FGB meetings.

The governing body delegates some specific functions to some governors covering specific areas of school life. These governors are known as Link Governors. Our school has the following link governors:

Area of responsibility	Named Governor
EYFS	L. Cooper
Health and Safety	P. Gorham
PE and Sports Premium	J. Whitty
Pupil Premium	J. Lakey
Safeguarding	B. Upton
School Data	C. Elburn
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	K. Whitlock

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). A record is kept by the clerk of the governing body, and can be viewed on our website.

The work done in our committee and in the governing board

The Governing Board has had a particularly busy year focusing on school improvement, with support from an LA adviser, and looking forward to the future plans for the school. We are an outward looking team that regularly seek external collaboration and validation of our judgements, including quality of teaching and learning; we work closely with local schools within the Litcham Cluster and Cherry Tree Academy, Marham as well through the Viscount Nelson Education Network to seek improved outcomes for our children. We also underwent a Section 5 Ofsted inspection on the 6th and 7th March 2019, the full report can be found at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/120811>

In September 2018, a staffing restructure was undertaken with the number of classes reducing to 3 (Oulton – Year Reception, 1 & 2, Ranworth – Year 3 & 4 and Hickling – Year 5 &6). This has reduced the teaching commitment of the Headteacher, and enabled a heightened focus on quality first teaching, tailored interventions and short, sharp half termly school improvement foci. All governors undertake regular monitoring visits, in accordance with the school improvement and development plan, to ensure that the anticipated impact has been realised and we regularly review the schools’ self-evaluation. Following completion of his PGCE in July 2018, we also welcomed Mr Joshua Fiddy as our new lower Key Stage 2 class teacher (NQT); he has settled well into Great Dunham and is being supported by the Head teacher during his induction year.

The full governing body discuss key data, giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its aspirational targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our “vulnerable groups” of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Funding is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. We welcomed Mrs Gemma Steward as our SENDCo in September 2018, in a purchase agreement with Cherry Tree Academy.

Our data from July 2018 was mixed. Whilst our results for Early Years (75% of children achieving a good level of development against the 17 early learning goals), Year One Phonics (100% pass) and Key Stage 1 reading was above national average; our Key Stage 2 SATs results were below national average for RWM combined due to the historic legacy of poor maths teaching. Our school improvement and development plan is focussed on diminishing knowledge gaps in these core subjects to ensure progress and attainment in July 2019 will be greatly improved. Current in-school data is supporting this assessment.

However, while we are ambitious for our children and want them to fulfil their potential and achieve the best results possible; it is equally important to governors to ensure that when they leave Great Dunham Primary they are confident, articulate, socially aware young people who are well prepared for the next stage of their life and education. We continue to maintain our approach of focussing on the 'whole child' to

ensure that every child is given the support and encouragement to develop, socially, emotionally and academically.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. We adhere to best value purchasing guidance, undertake annual financial benchmarking as well as completion of the annual statutory Schools Financial Value Standard. Our Health and Safety Governor carries out termly checks of the premises with the school's site manager. Our RAG rating demonstrates that governors are also compliant with the annually required finance training.

Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding. The entire governing body undertakes annual safeguarding training and we have a nominated safeguarding governor who reports to every FGB meeting about any safeguarding matters. An external safeguarding audit is undertaken, as well a Single Central Record check termly.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we continue to review policies to ensure that they are reflective of the school vision and ethos and in-line with the most recent legislation. The governing body has also worked alongside the teaching staff to review the curriculum, in anticipation of the changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework guidance in September 2019.

Although Education seems to have been a little less in the spotlight this year it nevertheless continues to be a source of focus and debate at national and local level. The change of stance by the government in respect of schools no longer having to convert to academy status by 2020 has been considered by the Governing Board. The resolution to academies was passed in 2017 by Governors; however we do not feel pressured to pursue academy status at the present time but remain aware of our obligation to ensure the longevity of our small school.

Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like a copy of any of the minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors

All plans are aimed at improving the learning experiences we offer all pupils and raising achievement levels.

Key Priorities for 2019-2020, as identified within Ofsted report:

1. Improve leadership and management by:
 - ensuring that the quality of teaching, learning and assessment are consistently good or better
 - expanding the role of middle leaders so that they take greater responsibility for leading improvements and raising levels of achievement for their subject across the curriculum
 - continuing to monitor, evaluate closely and respond promptly to the impact of the actions taken to improve teaching and learning
 - further develop the positive communication with parents, especially those parents who have concerns, so that they are clearer about what the school is doing to support their child.

2. Improve the quality of teaching and pupils' progress by:

- raising teachers' expectations of what pupils will achieve
- using assessment information more effectively to pitch work at the right level so that pupils' progress is accelerated for the lower-attaining and most able pupils
- effective teaching to enable pupils in upper key stage 2 to master the mathematical skills and knowledge expected for their age
- improving pupils' skills in grammar, punctuation and spelling in key stage 2
- ensuring that the marking policy is implemented consistently in all of the key stages and that pupils follow up on the comments written.

- 3.** Improve outcomes for pupils by making sure that:
- the design of the curriculum supports pupils' continuing progression in skills, knowledge and understanding across all foundation subjects
 - more pupils reach at least the expected standard in mathematics by the end of Year 2, so that they are in line with national averages
 - the proportions of the most able pupils who achieve the higher standards by the end of key stages 1 and 2 increase so that they are more in line with the national averages.
 - disadvantaged pupils improve the standard of their writing.

How you can contact the governing board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office.

You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing board meetings and more information about what we do, on the governors' page of the school website.