



# Jessie Younghusband School

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**Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy**

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Governor's Newsletter – May 2017

I am writing, once again, on behalf of the governing body to give you an up-date on how developments are progressing at our Jessie Younghusband School and to inform you of the priorities on which Mrs Sadler and the staff team are currently focussing their attention.

Much of the excellent work that is going on is clear for everyone to see. However, what often goes unseen is all the hard work and commitment of all the members of staff at the school, to ensure all the children have the very best experience and achieve as highly as they can in all areas of learning.

In recent years, significant changes have been made to the National Curriculum and the resulting assessment systems have required the staff to develop new approaches to teaching, especially in the core areas of reading, writing and maths. These changes have been essential for the school to maintain the high standards we have come to expect. I have to say the school has been rising to this challenge with its typical enthusiasm and commitment. We were all delighted with the Year 6 SATs results last year which were significantly above average for schools in West Sussex. Overall, they were even above those for schools nationally in some areas and, as you would expect, the school's aim is to strive to maintain this excellent standard.

The school has had to respond to the constant revision of the Ofsted expectations. This has meant regular reviewing of the school's systems and approaches to teaching, learning and assessment. It has also had to look at its Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) aspects of learning and up-grading our systems for safeguarding.

The governors were aware there was much work to be done (as a result of the changing landscape in educational expectations) when appointing Mrs Sadler as Headteacher some two+ years ago. I am delighted to report to you that I and the



Governing Body are extremely pleased with the progress the staff team have made, under Mrs Sadler's leadership, towards these significantly different and higher goals.

Some of you may be aware that several schools in the Chichester area have recently been visited by Ofsted. This has proved to be a very challenging time for some of them due to the increased demands of the Ofsted Framework. In the last 3 years, schools have been required to adjust and re-adjust their systems for self-evaluating their school's performance. This process has been happening continuously at JYS and the governors have had the benefit of regular reports on progress.

Mrs Sadler has provided the governing body with a detailed report each term and currently judges the school to be 'Good' overall with many 'Outstanding' features. This judgement has been endorsed and was agreed by the West Sussex Local Authority Link Adviser at her recent visit to the school. Her report indicated that she is very pleased with the rigorous and effective approach being taken by the leaders in the school to address the identified important areas for further improvement.

The school's current priorities can be found on our website [www.jys.org.uk](http://www.jys.org.uk) . They include the closing of gaps for more vulnerable pupils and ensuring achievement in writing and maths is more consistent. Staff have been undertaking professional development training to raise their confidence with the new National Curriculum requirements and all the signs are promising at this time.

I am keen for you to be aware that the JYS Governors continue to aspire towards the 'Outstanding' status from Ofsted. We are confident that all children at JYS receive an excellent standard of education and that they continue to do extremely well when they move on to secondary school.

Many of the school's governors will be in attendance at the school's Open Day on 26<sup>th</sup> May and I know we would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Alternatively, you can contact me through the school office or by email at [governors.jys.org.uk](mailto:governors.jys.org.uk).

In the meantime, we look forward to being able to view some of the children's 'creative' experiences during that afternoon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin Tomlinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

**Martin Tomlinson MBE**

Chair of Governors