



Jessie Younghusband School

Woodlands Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 5PA

Telephone: 01243 782192 Fax: 01243 530685

Headteacher: Mrs A Sadler, BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

www.jys.org.uk

e-mail: office@jys.org.uk

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December 2016

Dear Parent and other supporter of the JYS,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Jessie Younghusband School Governing Body to give you a brief report on our activities over the past twelve months.

You will be aware that the governing body is a committed group of 12 people who are very proud to be an important part of the Jessie Younghusband School. We are fortunate to have a wide range of expertise and experience. Our collective responsibilities include overseeing the school's staffing, finances, and buildings, along with a strategic role to ensure the vision, ethos and strategy of the school. To do this the governing body works very closely with the Headteacher to ensure the best education for all the children.

We meet, as a full governing body, once a term for formal meetings and have a significant number of smaller 'sub-committees' that do all the work in between. They are the following:

- 1) Resources,
- 2) Pupils, Learning and Teaching and
- 3) Staffing/Pay committee.

We enjoy a formally arranged bi-annual day-visit to the school where we spend time in the classrooms and hear reports from teachers and children. In addition, each member of the school's governing body has a specialist responsibility such as safeguarding, the school travel plan, health & safety or being a class 'link' governor for a specific class in the school.

It is exciting and, at times demanding work!

Our most recent governor visit day took place in November, last term. We focussed on children's enjoyment and engagement of learning and we observed the wonderfully creative and varied teaching approaches used across the school to enthuse and engage the children. We also met with the staff at lunch time which provided a welcome time to get to know everyone a little better and to share ideas and views.

Governors have been involved in a range of different activities and events over the past year. Many have accompanied groups of children on trips and visits including the Year 5 camp, choir performances out in the community and an eco-conference at the Weald and Down Museum. We greatly enjoy the opportunity this provides for us to learn more about the rich and varied activities provided through the hard work and dedication of the staff team at JYS.

You will be aware that we said 'goodbye' to a number of long serving members of staff at the end of the summer term. Although this was a sad time it was an inevitable consequence of the school's success at retaining staff for a large number of years. The governors have



been closely involved in the interview process that has led to the successful appointment of a very strong new team. The school office has also undergone changes during the year and the new structure is proving very effective.

Some governors are also involved in regular meetings with the Local Authority. We met with them recently, alongside Mrs Sadler, to evaluate the school's current development priorities and were reassured to hear that these were validated and that our Year 6 results for July 2016 were recognised as 'exceptional' in comparison to other school in West Sussex and above, or in line with, all schools nationally. This is a tremendous achievement for the school and we are very proud to have performed so well during a time of significant challenge for all schools arising from the changes introduced by the government to National Curriculum expectations and assessment procedures.

Our website will provide you with detailed information about the school. This has been under development now over the past year and a governor has worked alongside members of staff to make sure that we have published everything we are required to provide. We hope that you find this a useful source of information.

It is with some sadness that I have to report the untimely death of Alan Dickinson over the Christmas holidays. Alan was a long standing member of our governing body and had been instrumental in many of the building developments the school has achieved. This does, of course mean that we have a vacancy on the governing body and if you might be interested in fulfilling such a role I should like to invite you to discuss this with the Headteacher, Mandy Sadler.

We now look forward to an exciting new year in the life of the Jessie Younghusband School. I am certain that it will be as action packed as ever and that the children will excel themselves as usual!

You will have read in the school's most recent newsletter, that we have been successful in securing funding from the lottery, to enable the hut to be refurbished. This will provide a wonderful space for supporting children and also improve provision for use by the Friends on behalf of the school community.

We are always keen to hear your views on the school and how things could be further developed. There will be a consultation exercise a little later in the year. If in the meantime, you have any feedback please do not hesitate to contact the school who will be pleased to pass this on to the governing body.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Martin Tomlinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Tomlinson MBE

Chair of Governors