



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

Aspire ~ Respect ~ Enjoy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Governor's Newsletter – May 2018

I am writing, as usual, on behalf of the full governing body, to give you the latest up-date on all the exciting things that are constantly happening at our Jessie Younghusband Primary School.

Since my last newsletter (May 2017) we have all enjoyed celebrating the exceptional results achieved by the Year 6 children who left last year. Each year group is different and I have been very impressed by the calm and sensible way our current Year 6 children have been undertaking their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) ordeal this week.

The school continues to aspire to its 'Outstanding' Ofsted status and to target very high standards. The governing body is, therefore, delighted that the local authority agrees with our Headteacher, Mandy Sadler, in her judgement that the school continues to maintain a 'consistently good with many outstanding features' standard in all areas. The school's published data is carefully examined every year by the staff team, and used to inform the school's development plan and its priorities for the new academic year. Amongst other things over the last few years, the school has worked hard to improve standards in writing and the impact of this can be seen when the school's data is analysed. Next year the school anticipates focussing more on maths as a priority in the development plan.

As with all schools in the country, especially those in West Sussex, there are some significant budgetary challenges. The governors have worked very closely with the Headteacher to achieve the best possible 2018-2019 annual budget. We have aimed to minimise the potential effect of these restraints and yet maintain the same provision and staffing structure as much as we possibly can. It is important that we continue to apply the prudent and careful policies of the past, which has enabled us to be in a stronger position than many other schools.

It is with these issues in mind that I am delighted to inform you there will be some exciting changes ahead. You will all be aware that our very long standing Deputy Headteacher, Kirsty Hendriksen, has decided that the time is right for her to leave and that we have appointed our very own, well known, Mr Paul Neaves as her successor. It has been decided, in conjunction with the teaching staff, that it would be good if there was a move around the year groups for many of the teachers with effect from September. This will provide for a new, fresh approach and will enable the teachers to undertake a major review of their teaching strategies. I will leave the exact details of this to Mrs Sadler when all the arrangements have been finalised.



I am sure many of you will have been aware that the school has experienced some particular challenges during the past twelve months. We were all very greatly saddened by the untimely death of Chloe Ferris after her very long battle with cancer. Many of her friends and representatives of the school staff and governors attended her emotional funeral in Portsmouth. The children and staff team have been remarkably strong in the way they have managed to cope with this event.

The school has also experienced some unexpected challenges in providing much needed individual support for a few pupils during the year. As with all Local Authority maintained schools we seek to be inclusive and to provide for all pupils whatever their individual needs. Fortunately the school has coped remarkably well with these issues and much has been learned about certain types of special educational needs for the future.

There are some exciting developments planned for the future of the outside environment at the school. The sensory garden is to receive a 'make-over' during the summer holidays and the beloved 'Jolly Jess' boat will be renewed into a Viking long-ship. We are very grateful to the Friends of JYS for their generous contributions towards these developments. The remaining money required for these developments comes from our School Sports Premium grant. We are also grateful to the friends of JYS for the many other ideas that have been suggested for developing the play areas for the children.

There have been some particularly 'stand-out' star events during the year, such as the honour of being one of only a very few schools invited to attend the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the Chichester Festival Theatre in January this year. If you have recently viewed the school's website, you will have noticed how increasingly successful the school has been in sporting activities. The Cormorants annual swimming gala for primary schools was a notable success against significant opposition along with the girl's team's success in the Chichester Corporate Challenge running event.

I am sure you can well believe how grateful the whole governing body is to Mandy Sadler and the entire workforce team (paid or voluntary) at JYS. The on-going continued professionalism of everyone involved, throughout the year, through 'thick and thin', is quite magnificent. I know that I am able to bask in the reflected glory of a very successful and happy school. The children are superb and the parents are so supportive that it encourages us all to strive for even greater successes.

Many of the school's governors will be in attendance at the school's Open Day on 25th 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Martin Tomlinson', is displayed on a light grey rectangular background.

Martin Tomlinson MBE
Chair of Governors