



LADBROOKE JMI SCHOOL

Work Together, Achieve Together

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff

Another good year is drawing to a close at Ladbrooke JMI School. The hard work and enthusiasm of all the staff has paid off. Thank you one and all!

Staffing

One of our leading teachers Mrs Daly is retiring, having been with us since 2002, and the whole school paid tribute to her this week with a fun 'Mad Hatters Tea Party'. Not only did the event show the affection and respect we hold for her but was a typical example of the fun and team spirit that is evident throughout the school.

Staffing for the next year has been secured but we are blessed with a happy and healthy staff who want to remain with us. The staff who joined us a year ago are now part of the team and whenever cover is required for, say, training or staff sickness there is a willingness of other members of staff to put in extra hours. This illustrates the invisible team effort at the school which provides the continuity for the children's learning.

The Senior Leadership Team are always looking to improve the educational experience and an initiative introduced this year is staff profession learning days enabling peer observations for all teachers to observe colleagues and share good practice. This is proving to be worthwhile.

Governors

There was a requirement for all School Governing Bodies to reconstitute by 1 September 2015 and I can report that this has been completed. From 10 July 2015 our Governing body will consist of 3 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 staff governor, 6 co-opted governors and the Headteacher: 12 in total. We currently have governors to fulfil all these categories; however, it is likely in the future that when vacancies occur we may appeal for governors with particular experience or expertise to support the school. Governors continue to be appointed for a period of 4 years.

As a means of allowing access by governors to the school in action, there have been two governor days this year when we were invited to attend and witness a typical day at school. The first visit in November 2014 provided us with an opportunity to see the teaching of maths, allowing time for us to chat to the pupils about their learning, homework and the help they receive. The second visit in March 2015 introduced us to the Creative Curriculum when topics are chosen as a medium to teach the traditional subjects of geography, history, writing, music, art etc. The pupils showed great enthusiasm for this topic based way of learning and governors were very impressed on both days with the learning experience.

In addition to these visit days, governors are continuously involved in the school in different ways including Health and Safety, Special Educational Needs, School Visit, staff appointments and, for my own part, keeping in touch with the Headteacher on a regular basis to share the day to day happenings in the school.

Premises

The development of the school premises continues to be part of our vision, budget allowing. We are awaiting the commencement of the Cob House which has been held up by the need to ensure that it is structurally fit for purpose for the use of our pupils. This will provide us with some additional teaching space and I am delighted to confirm that work is due to start soon! Once again, this summer some redecoration will take place to ensure the classrooms are kept in good condition and give the children a sense of pride in their surroundings.

Stepping down as Chair of Governors

I have served on the Governing Body for 20 years since my children attended Ladbrooke. And why? Because I am passionate about education and, more particularly, that children are provided with the tools they need and reach their potential by the time they transfer to Secondary School. It has been a pleasure to serve the school, on occasions challenging but always hugely rewarding. Significant events that come to mind are the move to the new school premises, defending the school against the potential closure (which subsequently led to the closure of Sunnybank School) and the successful search for a new Headteacher. As for the changes that have taken place, there are too many to mention. However, the digital age with the collation and analysis of data has completely altered how we all function. What remains unchanged is that every pupil is an individual and each child is entitled to a good education and an environment in which to thrive and develop.

I am proud to learn of the creation of a new Award for Endeavour in my name to be presented annually to a year 6 student. I could not have been more delighted.

There will be a new chairperson from September as it is important to bring a new perspective and enthusiasm to the role.

Lastly, have a good Summer Break.

Yours

Lesley Gawen (Chair)
On behalf of the Governors