

Governor Newsletter – September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

We were delighted to welcome Mr Hanna as our new Headteacher last September. It was a difficult time to take over a new school, following on from a far from normal previous year and COVID problems continuing to affect the day to day running of the school moving into 2021/2022. Despite this, due to the exceptional commitment of the entire JYS team and solid leadership, we are pleased to report that the school's results exceeded National averages in all areas at the end of the year.

The school has also participated in many sporting tournaments and performed very well.

Family and friends were able to enjoy some new school events, such as carols on the playground, including a guest appearance from Santa! A very enjoyable sports day, blessed by glorious sunshine and who can forget the marvellous whole school summer performance of The Lion King. The children overcame the extreme heat and a sudden change of venue to deliver an energetic and colourful show, enjoyed by all. The entire JYS team should be congratulated for all the hard work that went on behind the scenes.

Premises

Funded by WSCC, there has been some extensive electrical work carried out throughout the school over the summer break. Classroom heaters, emergency and overhead lighting have been replaced in many classrooms.

I think everyone would agree that the grounds are looking very trim and the outside learning areas have been well used, in particular the pond area.

Inset Days

Designed for whole school training, the staff and Governors received statutory updates, including safeguarding, during the INSET days at the beginning of this term. It may be of interest to you to learn that there is increased emphasis on online safety for children. New ways of working and formulating the school improvement plan were also high on the agenda.

Finance

As we look forward to the new school year there appears to be uncertainty as to how schools will fund (well deserved) pay rises for staff and energy bills that are not subject to any domestic cap. At present the Government have declined to provide additional funds which some schools will find very difficult. Jessie is in a similar position to most schools, in that any surplus budget is extremely limited and without additional funding, savings will have to be found elsewhere.

Becoming an Academy

Academisation has been an ongoing agenda item for Jessie for some years, but to date we have not been convinced of the benefits of such a move. However, the Government's Education White Paper makes a clear commitment that by 2030 all children will receive education from an institution that is part of an academy or a similar grouping of schools. Consequently, Jessie must now renew its debate as to whether a voluntary move towards a partner of choice at an earlier stage is preferable to being forced to do so later. The issue is complex, and we will of course keep parents fully briefed of any developments.

Governors

Our thanks go to Janet Medlam and Rachel Ritchie, who stepped down as governors during the last academic year.

We welcome Mrs Chloe Filh-Pearson, who joins us this September, as our newly appointed Local Authority Governor.

2022/2023

So here we are at the beginning of yet another school year, which we hope will be even more successful without the pandemic problems we have encountered over the past two years.

Kind regards

Clare Few Co-chair of Governors

Ian Lomax Co-chair of Governors