

# Ladysmith Federation

## Governor's Report Academic Year 2016/17

It has been another very busy and successful year for both of the Ladysmith schools. The Infant School started the year without a Headteacher and Mrs Brown took over the reins as Acting Headteacher and was then appointed to the permanent position in January following a rigorous selection process. This has meant that the school has operated for the whole of this year without a Deputy Headteacher and it is because of the hard work and dedication of Mrs Brown, her Senior Leadership Team and all of the other staff that the school has run as smoothly as it has and the children have had such a great year. A new Deputy, Mrs Collinge, has been appointed and will join the staff in September.

The Junior School has also had a very eventful year. Mr Wilkinson and Mr Broad both had their acting positions confirmed and the school moved into the new building after Easter. The move from the old building into the new was a huge task and months of planning went into making it the smooth event that it turned out to be. The whole of the staff group have to be congratulated on their hard work ensuring there was little impact on the children. The whole of the building process has added a disruptive element to school life both from the distraction of building noise, the restriction of play space and classroom moves for some even before the final move into the new school. The children seem to be really pleased with the new building and the facilities it offers and we will have the whole site back by this September, although there will still be work to do in finishing the landscaping.

All of this has added additional work for governors and they have put in many hours over the year providing support for the two schools. They all require thanks for their hard work and dedication but for four, who have decided to stand down after many years of service, there needs to be a special mention.

Julie Walker has been a governor at the Infant School and latterly the Federation and has also volunteered in the Infant School for many years. She has a huge knowledge of the education system and has held many key roles on the governing body.

Ajit Nayak has served as the elected Parent Representative on the governing body. His knowledge and interest in data systems and data analysis has been invaluable and has provided governors with much greater understanding of the key questions which need to be asked.

Matt Jones has also been part of the governing body for several years. His specialist background in education has also provided governors with greater understanding of the education system and enabled him to give key support and advice to both schools.

Stephanie Henshaw is stepping down after five years as a governor. Her background is in finance and she has been a supportive and effective Chair of the Resources Committee responsible for overseeing the budget of both school.

It is going to be hard losing four such experienced and hard working governors all at the same time but I am sure that I speak for all of the governors and staff in offering a huge vote of thanks to them for all of their efforts over the years and to wish them well for the future.

With major building works completed and our Senior Leadership Teams up to complement the future is full of potential for both of our schools. Alongside of our dedicated and hard-working staff my fellow governors and I look forward to continuing to develop an exciting and enriching educational experience for all of the children.

Have a good summer and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back in September.

Ian Gibson  
Chair of Federation Governors