



Parent Governor Election Results

We would like to thank everybody who participated in the SJB Parent Governor Election – our three candidates for putting themselves forward for a rather daunting election process, and parents and carers for taking time to read about our candidates and cast votes. Turn out at the ballot box was extremely high and we are delighted that parents have engaged so enthusiastically with the process of selecting the school's governing board.

This particular election process has taken a slightly unusual turn. Before polls closed on Friday, the Governing Body received notice of resignation from Paul Smith, who was also a Parent Governor. This meant that there were now three vacancies for Parent Governors and so we are in the fortunate position to be able to return all three of our candidates as elected Parent Governors. We therefore welcome **Elizabeth Queen-Fryer, Angela Wilde and Helen O'Neill** to the Governing Body with immediate effect and congratulate them all on the outcome of the election.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Paul Smith** for his hard work on the Governing Body over the last years. He has made valued contributions to the school's financial planning and oversight, and in helping to monitor the school's premises and Health and Safety – an important but somewhat onerous task!



Celebrating Great Attendance at SJB

We know at SJB that regular attendance and being on time for the start of the school day really makes a difference! As we have reported before in this newsletter, the school chooses to employ an Education and Welfare Officer. She works in partnership with other local schools including UVHS to support our pupils and help with any attendance or punctuality difficulties they may have.

We are delighted that with your support as parents and carers, our school attendance record continues to improve, and that we perform above the National Average for primary school attendance levels. Thank you to everyone who is involved in the effort of getting our children out of bed and in to school every morning!

Life after Levels

Those of you who follow the education news or work in schools yourselves will be aware that the Department for Education has recently changed profoundly the way in which schools are required to monitor pupil performance in schools, and how we communicate their progress to parents.

Parents with older children at the school will be familiar with *Levels*. These have been phased out and are to be replaced with *Age Related Expectations*.

The school teaching staff have been working hard to ensure that all of our assessment tools are working well to support children's learning. We feel that the most important aspect of any assessment is that it is useful for telling the teacher – and the children – what needs to happen next in their learning. We are confident that we have the right tools in place to give the children the best support in the classrooms.

You may notice some changes in how teachers talk to you about your children's performance in school, but all that has changed is how this is measured. Staff will be happy to answer any questions that parents and carers have about the new scheme.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

It feels slightly premature to be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas while we are still anticipating the school Christmas Performance at the Parish Church on Wednesday 9th December, and Infant Nativity performances in school next week on the 14th and 15th December.

We are looking forward to being at these key events in the school's calendar, and to joining in with the rest of the school community in wishing everyone in Team SJB all the best Season's Greetings.

The SJB Governing Body



Governor spotlight: Pupil personal development, behaviour and welfare

*We continue our series of reports on Governor "Learning Walks" where we come in to school to gather information on a particular aspect of school life. Ensuring the personal development and welfare of all our pupils is a key part of our commitment to their success, and part of the school's job that is taken extremely seriously. We know that mutual respect and responsibility are important for maintaining the nurturing environment which we are seeking to provide at SJB. This term, our learning walk focused on **Behaviour when learning, and attitudes to learning.***

Ramsey Barker and Jen Cox report their findings

The standard of behaviour, and attitudes towards learning which we observed throughout the day, was, without exception, impeccable. This was so both in the classroom and in public areas such as corridors, dining room, school hall and playground. All children were courteous and made way for others. They readily held doors open for others and were quiet and well behaved throughout. There was no unnecessary 'noise' observed throughout the day.

When the morning playtime had been cut short by rain, the infants readily obeyed all instructions to line up and file quietly back into school. Being Armistice Day, the school held a special assembly and the Armistice silence, which was actually about three minutes long in total was impeccably observed. I was especially impressed by the younger children to whom three minutes must seem like an eternity. After the assembly all the children returned to their classes in an efficient, quiet and orderly manner. Older children were well organised and put out, and later put away, the hall seating with minimal instructions.

In class the children were obviously listening carefully to their teachers, and getting on promptly and efficiently with their work. We saw numerous examples during the day of children taking pride in their work, and readily providing examples of what they had learned both inside school, and on school trips. Whenever teachers asked any questions the children were eager to reply.

We talked with some of the pupils and asked them about how their teachers help with different things. If they had any difficulties with their work, children knew that their teacher was the one to approach. When it was put to them who they would approach if the teacher was unable to resolve the matter, it was clear that they felt this was not an issue for them – the children we spoke to were confident that their teachers could resolve any problems. This was the consistent theme for all the children we spoke to in every class.

It was also clear from the children we spoke to, that they knew exactly what standards of behaviour were expected of them. It was also clear that they expected that there would be immediate and firm action taken were any behaviour to fall below the standard expected at SJB. The teachers we talked with were consistent in their belief that behaviour had both steadily and greatly improved over the last few years.

When we asked pupils what the best thing was about school, the extremely broad range of answers showed the richness and variety of the positive school experiences, and learning at SJB.

There was a clear and glowing sense of pride observed from all children and staff at being part of SJB. We both greatly enjoyed carrying out this walk and agree that all children and staff at SJB should be commended for the impeccable standards of behaviour and similarly high standards of attitudes to learning we observed throughout our visit.