

# Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I should like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors at Oaklands Junior School and on behalf of the Governing Body, welcome your children and yourselves to the start of a new year at school.

As most of you will know, John McLaren retired from the Governing Body after many years of dedicated service first as a Governor and then as Chair, and it will be a hard act to follow in his footsteps. However, I am honoured to accept this responsibility and will do my utmost to ensure that we continue to work closely with Mrs West and the staff to give all our children the very best education in a happy and safe environment.

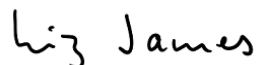
I did serve as Vice Chair of the Governing Body and was also Chair of the Curriculum Committee, so am very aware of all the strengths of the school as well as seeking to improve in everything that we do. However, from the start I have been very impressed with how well Mrs West, the Senior Leadership team and all the staff cooperate with and welcome the Governors, meaning that we are very much a team working towards the same end. Indeed, you might not see Governors in the playground but we do spend time in school talking to both staff and children, and visiting lessons.

I hope that you have been aware in recent years that the staff have been introducing thinking tools into lessons, with the aim of becoming an accredited Thinking School. This is very much our vision at Oaklands Junior School as we believe that this philosophy will enable to children to develop enquiring minds and become creative thinkers, with a lifelong love of learning. This has been a long, gradual process but I am delighted to be able to tell you that right at the end of term, we received notification from the Accreditation Body, the University of Exeter, that we are now an accredited Thinking School. The Governors have been fully supportive of this from the start and on behalf of the Governing Body, I should like to thank Mrs West, all the staff and in particular Mr Holland, who has taken the lead in this, for all their hard work.

As you know, the school became part of the Corvus Learning Trust in January, along with Edgbarrow, Oaklands Infants and Hatch Ride. This is inevitably an evolving process but is proving to be extremely positive, with increasing communication, cooperation and sharing of good practice between the schools, whilst retaining their individual identity. It is certainly an exciting time to be taking on the role of Chair.

Finally, any concerns that you may have about your children should of course be addressed first with the class teacher and then with Mrs West if necessary. However if you have questions regarding strategy or the running of the school, do please get in touch using the email address below, and I will get back to you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz James". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Liz James  
Chair of Governors

[chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk)