



**Board of Governors  
St James' C. of E. Primary School**

July 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term I am writing on behalf of all the Governors to reflect on the year.

2016/17 has been tremendously busy and while there is nothing unique in that I wanted to highlight two important outcomes both of which are linked to our statutory responsibilities as Governors.

The first is performance. You will by now have seen the results that our children have achieved in national tests. We are all delighted that our children are performing above the national average. These results are important for the children who achieve them but also for the teaching staff who equip them with skills to do so and of course for parents and carers. The performance has been achieved against a backdrop of complex political change which makes long term planning challenging from a curriculum and staffing perspective. Mrs. Harford and her team have again guided our children through these trials and the performance speaks for itself.

I would also like to recognize the work that goes on behind the scenes. The staff in the reception office are in the front line presenting the face of the school and their contribution can be overlooked in the excitement at the end of term. Mrs. Martindale, as the School Business Manager, leads this team as well as managing the School's finances and support systems which allow the teaching staff to deliver better outcomes for children. Without their hard work our school and indeed the governing body could not function.

The second subject I wanted to cover is that of our strategic direction.

In the spring of 2017 we became an academy and joined the Diocese of Gloucester Multi Academy Trust. We felt that this was the right decision for the future of our school and while it is still early days in our relationship with DGAT we remain confident and look forward to the next academic year when we will build the partnership and begin to reap some of the benefits. Better outcomes for our children is always the priority but the development of our staff is also crucial, it is simply not possible to develop one without the other. I anticipate that our membership will provide exciting challenges for all our staff, their personal development is fundamental to the running of a successful school.

Conversion to an academy was a lengthy process and I am grateful to the Governing body for the hours that they have freely given over the past academic year. We have faced many challenges together and while the names have changed our resolve has not. In particular, I would like to thank Nicola Mosley,

Julian Baxter and Jane Avery. All three stepped down this year and their experience and support will be missed. Nicola and Julian were key parts of the Resources Committee leading on finance and Health and Safety respectively, their calming and experienced presence was always appreciated. Jane as staff governor played a very important role in some of the big decisions we have taken in recent years and I will miss her perspective. I am sure Mr. Bradley will be a perfect replacement and we are pleased to welcome him and offer our congratulations on his successful election. It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces to the Board and this year Gail Scott and James Dawson King joined us. Their skills and enthusiasm which are shared by all members is key to continued successful governance.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Harford who celebrates the end of her third year at St James' Primary School. I am constantly impressed by the sheer number, and complexity, of issues that she faces daily, always with assurance and professionalism. Her inspirational staff and dedicated band of volunteers continue to make this school such a special place.

Our thoughts are with those about to join our school and of course our current Year Six as they prepare to leave. They will always be children of St James' Primary School and I wish them the very best of luck in the coming years.

On behalf of the Governors I wish you all a very well deserved summer break and look forward to seeing you again in the autumn.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Brock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'B'.

Tim Brock

Chairman of Governors