



Jessop Stockwell Federation
Lead Headteacher: Ms A. Parker

Friday 18th December 2020

Autumn message from Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of 2020, we wanted to take stock of the achievements and reflect on some of the changes that we have seen at Jessop and Stockwell.

When we wrote to you before schools were closed in March, nobody knew how long the first national lockdown would last. We were aware we would all face difficulties, but few of us could have anticipated what the pandemic would demand from staff, children and parents.

We want to thank all staff for the efforts they have made to adapt lessons, classrooms and teaching methods to ensure learning can carry on as safely as possible. Equally, we want to send our thanks to parents and carers for supporting children's learning at home, often while juggling work and other demands. Attendance at our schools remains high, at 95%. We appreciate the efforts parents and carers are making to ensure their children are getting the education they deserve.

The schools have been changing dramatically. This has meant that there has been more innovation than ever before: some was essential, and some has helped us discover new ways to be more effective.

For example, shortening school hours on a Friday has meant:

- Bubbles are protected as teachers have their statutory training and preparation time without need for cover
- No supply staff used to cover absences
- No classes sent home at short notice due to staff illness
- More ability to provide intervention lessons during the week, meaning children who have fallen behind are getting the support they need to catch up more quickly than they would otherwise
- We also know early Friday closing has put an extra burden on parents and the schools are working to make childcare available.

We remain focused on our vision, and firstly for children to be happy, healthy and safe.

There have been additional costs as a result of some of the changes we have needed to make - and some of the changes to how we do things have helped us manage within our budgets. The PTAs at both schools have provided fantastic support, raising funds to allow us to reintroduce high quality hot meals. As the weather gets colder this is particularly important and helps children concentrate throughout the day.

We were very pleased with the response from Ofsted on their virtual visit to Stockwell to review how we had been addressing issues raised by Covid-19. To be told this is how a school should feel like shows the outcome of all the hard work that has gone in across the Partnership, and we hope is reflected when we have our next full inspection.

Whatever 2021 brings, we feel lucky to be part of such a committed community in which parents, carers, and staff work so hard to achieve the best education for all our children.

Wishing you all the best for a safe and restful break.

The Board of Governors



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