

**Headteacher**  
MRS A COWAN  
01275 843969

[office@highdownschools.org](mailto:office@highdownschools.org)

[www.highdownschools.co.uk](http://www.highdownschools.co.uk)



**High Down Junior School**

Down Road  
Portishead  
Bristol  
BS20 6DY

## High Down Junior School

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### Re year 6 SAT outcomes 2017

You may have seen the Y6 test outcomes reported in the press just before the Christmas break. When we received the raw outcomes back in the summer we were surprised, and obviously disappointed, particularly with the maths results. The 2017 outcomes were completely out of line with the Junior School's recent performance and since then we have undertaken an exhaustive review of provision and implemented a robust action plan. The impact of this plan has been monitored by the school leadership team, the school governors, our school improvement advisor and the Lighthouse Schools Partnership Trust.

We are very clear that the cause of the dip was in the alignment of our work at High Down Juniors against the new SATs curriculum and this has shown up very starkly in outcomes. Also, we had 10 children in maths within a couple of points of the pass mark who had been teacher assessed as reaching the expected standard. This would have resulted in 70% attaining the expected level and raising the combined reading, writing and maths score. Therefore maths development has been a focus for school improvement this academic year.

The Trust has followed up the progress of High Down pupils joining Year 7 at Gordano School and the data from their baseline testing (which does not follow the SATs curriculum) showed that the young people from High Down Juniors had an excellent grounding and education at KS2.

High Down Junior School has been working very closely with colleagues from across our Trust and recognise the high importance of KS2 outcomes. We had an external consultant visit from the DfE several weeks ago and he reported that teaching was 'very strong' and that he was very confident that attainment would quickly rise.

A long-term issue for the school will be progress measures. This is an issue with the majority of Infant and Junior Schools where reported outcomes at the end of Infants are higher than in Primary Schools. National data shows that "Junior Schools have lower progress scores than Primary Schools" – Inspection Data Summary Report 2017. The Trust are fully aware of this issue.

Should you have any questions for either the school or the Academy Trust please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,

Andrey Cowan  
Executive Headteacher  
High Down Schools

Gary Lewis  
Chief Executive  
Lighthouse Schools Partnership Trust

