

20th September 2013

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

Here is the annual report of the work carried out by the Governing Body over the last year. We plan to make this a regular termly report so the next one will be shorter.

Governors are expected to ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school; to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school; set the budget and to make sure that money is well spent. The headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school.

Governors have attended a range of courses to make sure that we have the necessary skills to do our work effectively. Courses have covered judging the effectiveness of the headteacher (appraisal); school finances; the role of the chair of governors; training for new governors; safer recruiting; the primary curriculum.

Appointing a new headteacher

Last November we appointed Ruth Jones as our new headteacher. We thought very carefully about the sort of person we needed; we took into account what you told us. One of the important things we said was: "We want Newtown Primary School to be an inclusive, aspiring, exciting place: where children are happy, enjoy their learning and achieve their potential; where staff reflect on their practice and develop their skills; where parents and carers feel involved in their children's learning and know how to help them."

The School Development Plan 2012-2013

Ruth has built on the work planned by Ann Parker, who was our acting headteacher from September 2012 to March 2013. Plans, set out in the School Development Plan for 2012-2013, focused on:

- ⤴ Excellence for all: ensuring high attainment and progress for all groups of pupils (for instance, making sure that staff have high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils; that they give consistent feedback to pupils so they will know what they need to do to improve)
- ⤴ Adult learning (including the new Ofsted framework; using Pupil Tracker effectively; professional development for learning support staff; the new teacher appraisal process)
- ⤴ Building partnerships (including parental involvement, global partnerships, Artsmark award; the work of the Speech and Language Centre)

We have asked key questions about the impact of the plans to find out what has worked and what we need to do better. Ruth Jones has summarised areas of achievement and areas to be improved – these aspects are built into the new development plan.

We have updated school policies so they meet statutory requirements and are relevant to the school. You can read some key policies on the school website (Parents Pages), as well as information about the work of governors (Governor Page).

The Budget

We have set a balanced budget for the next three years. We have completed the School's Financial Value Standard which has been approved by the Local Authority. Feedback shows that we are managing the school's finances effectively; it also indicates how we can improve our work – for instance by comparing ourselves more systematically with other schools so that we ask questions and see whether we can do things better.

Nearly all of the children supported by Pupil Premium funding made average or above average progress. Plans for this year are on the website (About Us).

Thank you to Hayley Back for all her hard work in managing the finances.

School Development Plan 2013-2014

Governors are very excited about Ruth's vision for the school set out in the new development plan. And over the coming year everyone – parents, carers, staff, governors – will be involved in revising the school's vision.

There is a detailed plan of action for each area of the new Development Plan and ways to help us judge how well we are doing. The new plan sets out how we will continue to improve standards in literacy and numeracy; how we will develop teaching and support staff; how we will make sure that we are an inclusive school where every child makes good progress with the support they need; how we will develop creative, artistic and sporting opportunities for everyone.

An important aspect of the new plan is to help parents become even more involved in their children's learning. A new on-line resource (Bug Club) and KS1 numeracy workshops for parents will show you how you can help your children at home. There are plans to promote a love of reading across the school. Watch out as the former ICT suite becomes a new library and community room.

The government has introduced Performance Related Pay for teaching staff. This is a big change and a challenging responsibility for governors and for senior teachers. We will consult the teaching staff about the new policy. We must ensure that we are both rigorous and fair.

At the end of last term three governors volunteered to form a **School Meals Working Party** – good timing given the announcement that all children in Key Stage 1 will be offered free school meals from 2014. The team will be in touch to gather your views.

Thank You

The Governing Body would like to say a huge thank you to Su Aves who is stepping down as a governor. Su has been involved with Newtown as a parent and as a governor. She has made a massive contribution to the work of the school and skilfully chaired the governing body for three years. We have all learned a lot from her thoroughness and developed our understanding of our work as governors under her leadership.

As chair of governors, I'd also like to thank all the governors for their hard work. The government continues to give us more responsibilities and holds us to account for the success of the school.

You can contact me or any of the governors, through the school office via Hayley or Laura. You can find all our names in the governors' section of the school website: www.newtownprimaryschool.co.uk/governorpage.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Lloyd
Chair of Governors