

Telephone: 01392 255540

Fax: 01392 424661

E-mail address: admin@newtown.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.newtownprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher - Ruth Jones

NEWTOWN



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtown Primary School
Clifton Road,
Exeter EX1 2ES
Devon



Spring Report to Parents from the Governors

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school. We hold the headteacher to account and we make sure that money is well spent. The headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.

March 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

Here is our latest report of the work we have done so far this year at Newtown.

Knowing the school

One of the joys of being a school governor, is the privilege of coming into school to see the children and staff at work and we are grateful for the welcome we are shown by all the staff at Newtown. Governors have sat in on pupil interviews where pupils have talked enthusiastically about their work and progress; we have carried out learning walks, looking at the classroom environments; we have attended assemblies, enjoyed the Key Stage 1 play, Christmas with the Aliens, and the Key Stage 2 carol concert, and helped with the Halloween disco. We have seen much to make us proud of the provision and care for the pupils at the school.

Statutory duties, monitoring and holding to account

In our meetings we have received regular reports from Mrs Jones and Mrs Dolphin and we have taken the opportunity to question them about the progress being made by the pupils. We have also attended staff training sessions and staff meetings where teachers have been moderating their assessments of writing and mathematics. We have been monitoring the new arrangements in Key Stage 2 for mixed-age teaching and are pleased to report that early indications are positive. Individual governors have also made visits to school to talk to staff about specific areas, such as safeguarding arrangements, special needs provision and finance. Each time we make a visit we complete a detailed visit note with our findings and our notes for the governing board. We have also attended courses on Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection and have updated all our school policies throughout the year. At least one governor has also been present to make the appointment at all staff interviews, and in February three of us were pleased to appoint Jo Kingscott as co-head one day a week. Finally, the Chair of Governors has met Mrs Jones on a weekly basis to talk through any issues and concerns as they arise throughout the term.

Appointing a new headteacher for September 2017

Following Mrs Jones' decision to retire in the summer, we have started the process of appointing a successor. We met with Alan Betts, the Local Authority adviser, on 2nd March and have begun the process of drawing up an application pack and preparing an advert for an acting Headteacher in the first instance. We are also working with staff to make improvements to the school website, updating the information and presentation of material. We will involve staff, pupils and our parent governors in the interview process as we make this crucially important appointment.

Exploring future partnerships

As you may be aware, many schools are now entering into learning partnerships, including federations and multi-academy trusts, and as governors we have been giving serious thought to the best way forward for Newtown School. We set up a working group in 2016 to explore our options and we have spent time in our governors' meetings establishing the criteria for any future partnership. Our priorities as we face this important decision are: to do what is best for the children at the school; to maintain the current ethos of the school; only to consider partnerships with local schools; to retain our own local governing body at Newtown. To that end, we have spoken to a small school federation, had presentations from a local multi-academy trust and a local cooperative trust, and spoken to a larger county-wide multi-academy trust with several schools in Exeter.

We are close to making a decision and you will be fully consulted on any proposed change.

Working together for the children at Newtown

We enjoy our work at Newtown, and we feel there is much to celebrate. We are realists, though, and know we can always do things better. If you would like to get in touch to ask us questions or to share your views about school issues, do not hesitate to contact us, using the email address: newtowngovernors@gmail.com.

With best wishes

Jill Mather

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board