

April 2016

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

Here is our latest report of the work we have done this year.

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.

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### **FEEDBACK FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

At the end of the last academic year we sent out a questionnaire to all parents and carers to find out what you thought about Newtown School. We have analysed your answers and your responses to the two questions "What do you think the school does well, and why?" and "What do you think could be improved and how could we do this?"

Of the 39 parents who responded, 97% were happy with the school and would recommend it to other parents. Parents overwhelmingly valued the community atmosphere and the inclusive feel to the school.

The teachers' hard work and friendliness was very much appreciated and parents felt their children were taught well and were making good progress.

The Speech and Language unit was also praised by many. The extra-curricular programme was valued by many parents: something we hope to continue.

With the new school meal provision, some parents were concerned about healthy eating, a matter which is already being discussed with the providers and with nutritional experts. Some parents also hoped more use could be made of outdoor spaces and requested more notice of school events.

Thank you very much for your responses. We will continue to work with the staff to ensure your children have a happy and successful time at Newtown.

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### **FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS**

You may know that the government wants all schools to become Academies by 2022, to be overseen by Regional School Commissioners, rather than Local Authorities. We are, at the moment, a Local Authority community school.

The advice is that schools should not rush into any change; as a first step, they should build and strengthen collaboration with other schools.

We have set up a working party of governors who are currently researching the ways schools can work together to benefit children, staff and parents.

Our prime concern will be to do what is best for our children and retain Newtown's identity. We are not going to rush into anything.

If you have questions, please contact Jenny Lloyd ([JennyMLloyd@gmail.com](mailto:JennyMLloyd@gmail.com)).

## Knowing the school

As governors, we need to know about what happens in school. Sometimes teachers come to talk to us; sometimes we come into school to find things out for ourselves.

- Steph Rowse has given us an overview of the Early Years curriculum and explained how children are taught and assessed in Reception.
- Alex Dolphin has outlined the way children are now assessed based on the new curriculum. Staff are working very hard to use the new system to assess the attainment and progress children make.
- Members of the Teaching & Learning Committee have heard how the school makes sure that the children are taught about e-safety in their computer lessons.
- We have made a number of visits to the school to monitor the teaching and learning of maths and literacy, to find out

about how children with special needs are supported and to make sure we are carrying out our safeguarding duties.

- We have approved plans to adapt our buildings as the school grows to 210 pupils.

We have also come along to many of the workshops for parents and learned about the work of the school alongside parents and carers:

- Phonics
- Bug Club Resources
- Maths and the New curriculum
- Approaches for Bilingual parents
- E-safety
- Spelling and the new curriculum
- Assessment and the new curriculum
- Coffee and Cake termly sessions with key speakers & activities

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## Grants to support the work of the school

The Hele's Trust has given the school a grant to buy resources for children whose first language is not English. They have also given us £2000 towards the cost of the Year 6 Residential.

We also have had a significant grant from Councillor Richard Westlake's Community Budget for outdoor blinds in the EYFS area and indoor blinds in years 4/5. These have all now been fitted and look splendid.

A big thank you to FONS (PTFA) who have also raised £2000 which we have put towards the new sound and light system which is now installed in the hall. This wonderful new equipment will not only be used for show and presentations but also for every day class use.

All these grants make a big difference to the work of the school.

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## THE GOVERNING BODY

We were very pleased to welcome Laetitia Brochon-Harmsworth as our new parent governor. We still have vacancies for two governors and would be really pleased to hear from parents or carers interested in becoming a governor of the school. You can read about what governors do on the governors' section of the school website:

[newtownprimaryschool.co.uk/governors-page](http://newtownprimaryschool.co.uk/governors-page). As we already have our two elected parent governors, you would need to be 'co-opted' (invited). Do get in touch with me, speak to our parent governors, Steve Fearn & Laetitia, or talk to Hayley Back or Ruth Jones, if you are interested.

Best wishes

Jenny Lloyd, on behalf of all governors