

May 2014

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

Here is our latest report of the work carried out by the Governing Body.

First a reminder of what governors are expected to do:

- ❖ ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- ❖ hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school **and its pupils, and the performance management of staff**;
- ❖ set the budget and make sure that money is well spent.

The words in bold have been added in the latest version of the Governors' Handbook, May 2014.

The headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school.

BUDGET

We have agreed our budget for the next three years. We have made sure that we have budgeted for the planned growth of the school. The Local Authority needs more school places and in September 2017 we should have 210 pupils. We have discussed how the buildings need to be adapted and about how many teachers we will need.

Over the summer holidays the room above the library will be refurbished for the Year 6 class.

GETTING BETTER AS A GOVERNING BODY

We have thought about what we do well as governors and what we need to do better.

We are going to concentrate on:

- Being more visible to the school community so that you know who the governors are and what we do as a governing body;
- Improving the way we judge the progress of the School Development Plan and the difference it makes to pupils;
- Making sure we carry out our duties effectively;
- Making sure that we continue to be an effective governing body, retaining existing governors and recruiting new governors. We need to make sure that we have a good balance of skills and that there is a smooth hand over to a new chair of governors;
- Managing the growth of the school including anticipating the challenges of our site and buildings.

Parents and carers can attend our full governor meetings as observers though you would have leave the room for confidential matters, for instance personnel items. Our next full governors' meeting is on 3rd July at 5.30 pm. We will publish next year's meetings on the website after our we have fixed the dates next term.

PRAISE FOR THE SPEECH & LANGUAGE CENTRE

The Local Authority visited the school in March to review the Speech & Language Centre. We were delighted to receive a report which highlights very good teaching, support, and progress by the children. It concludes:

What the S&L Centre provides is over and above what could be found in other similar primary schools with good SEN provision. Work has been done over the recent years to reshape the S&L Centre to what it is today, which is a very inclusive, productive and positive aspect of school.

NEWTOWN VISION AND VALUES

We have sent you the draft of the new vision and values for Newtown. Thank you for contributing and for responding to the draft vision. We will develop the art work and website version of the new vision and values in September and invite suggestions for mottos.

THE DATA DASHBOARD

The Government publishes basic information about the school including Key Stages 1 and 2 test results and attendance. The information is updated in March each year covering the previous academic year. This means that the information goes out of date quite quickly. There is a link to the Data Dashboard from our Ofsted report (on the school website). There is no information under *Closing the Gap*, as there were so few pupils in this category last summer.

We are very pleased that we have continued to achieve good attendance. The information on the Data Dashboard only covers the period up to the end of Summer Term 2013 when our attendance was still poor.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ruth Jones and the staff will produce a new School Development Plan later this term. It will include the things which Ofsted said we should continue to work on.

As governors we are currently working on how we can judge whether the plan is making any difference, for instance, to the ways pupils are learning and making progress. Our approach will be built into the new plan.

We will tell you about the new plan in our report next term.

CONTACTING GOVERNORS

You will get to know our governors through brief introductions in the newsletter. And 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 on behalf of the Governing Body