

September 2014

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

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

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.

THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The new School Development Plan sets out the important things the school will work on over the year. Our new plan focuses on:

- continuing to raise standards in Literacy and Numeracy in the light of the new curriculum
- further developing the quality of phonics teaching in order to apply and embed pupils' knowledge and skills across the curriculum
- enhancing learning for pupils across the key stages through teachers working together
- continuing to build and develop our all inclusive school in the light of the new SEN code of practice

During the year governors will check whether the plan makes a difference to the quality of teaching and learning. We will ask key questions to find out what works and what we need to do better.

Getting better at monitoring is one of the action points in our Governors' Action Plan.

IMPROVEMENT TO OUR BUILDINGS

We agreed funding to improve the learning environment for our children. We hope that you've noticed how much better the Early

Years outdoor area looks.

The former Art Room has been transformed for the children in Beech class and Maple class now have a small but colourful outdoor area. We've also made sure that there are storage areas for materials and costumes.

The Local Authority paid for replacing the hall ceiling including insulation. We will pay for the rest of the hall to be decorated later in the year.

The new library is a great asset. We pay for support from Devon Schools Library Service and they gave us excellent advice. We really appreciate the generous funding for new books from FONS. We will monitor the impact of the library on learning over the coming school year.

ST MATTHEWS PRE-SCHOOL

The governors had to make the hard decision to give the pre-school two year's notice so that we have enough space when the school has 210 children. We will continue our close association with the pre-school in the future.

NEW PROVIDER FOR SCHOOL MEALS

We needed to improve the quality of school meals, particularly with Universal Free School Meals starting for children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Our working party of governors

recommended that we changed to Fresha.

As we don't have our own kitchen, our choice was very limited and we had to ensure that the meals meet School Food Standards.

Our Resources Committee will be checking on how the new arrangements are going. We will keep in touch with you about this.

NEW TEACHERS

One of the most important things governors do is help with appointing staff. We are pleased to welcome Stevie Wise, our new Reception teacher and Jasmine Chugg, our new teacher for Year 5.

BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Governors were very pleased that we have been able to provide care for children before and after school. We are grateful to Ruth for all her hard work in getting it going in response to your demand.

NEW GOVERNING BODY FOR NEWTOWN

We are forming a new governing body this term to meet new government regulations. We explain this in the attached document. You can read about what governors do on the website: www.newtownprimaryschool.co.uk/governorpage/. We hope that some of you will be interested in volunteering. Please get in touch with me or talk to parent governors if you want to find out more.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Lloyd

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

IMPROVING THE GOVERNING BODY

In the last report we listed the things we want to get better at. One of these was to help you get to know who we are and what we do. We published four profiles of governors in the newsletter last term and another so far this term with more to follow.

Our termly reports aim to keep you informed about our work. We sent you three reports over the last school year.

OPPORTUNITY TO BE A GOVERNOR

There is an exciting opportunity to become a governor as we are about to form a new governing body (see below). While some governors will carry on to provide continuity, there will be room for new people to join us.

Being a governor means you are making an important contribution to the education of our children.