

Newport School

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Head Teacher: Ms P Barnes



To all Parents/Carers
Of pupils at Newport School

12th February 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing on behalf of the Governors to provide our usual termly update on recent developments at the school.

After the extreme weather we have experienced it already seems a long time since the school holidays! We hope that you all fared safely during this spell.

Newport closed for only 1 day during this period, in line with other local schools. As the catering service was also affected we appreciate the initiative the staff showed in making alternative arrangements to ensure children were fed!

As you no doubt are aware, our school underwent an Ofsted inspection at the end of last term and the Ofsted report has now been published.

The report noted the rapid progress made under Prue Barnes and her new leadership team since last September. *'Since the appointment of the interim headteacher the school has made some impressive improvements.....'*

The new senior leadership team, led by the very effective interim headteacher, works seamlessly and with vigour to ensure that the school is moving forward positively on a number of fronts. The team has a secure grasp of the school's strengths and weaknesses and is working tirelessly to turn the school around.'

Ofsted saw many green shoots at the school but found that it was still too early to remove the school from a category requiring special assistance.

The many positive comments include the following:

"A positive culture of improvement now pervades the school and staff morale is strengthening as the new school leadership tackles underachievement with vigour."

"Pupils' attendance is now better, their standards of writing are rising and the quality of teaching is more consistent. Pupils are beginning to make more effective progress, particularly the high proportion of those with special educational needs and/or disabilities."

"Pupils' moral, social and cultural development is good and their spiritual development is outstanding"

The school has put strong systems in place and is improving learning for our children. We are confident that the hard work that the pupils, parents/carers and staff are all putting in will lead to better results year on year for children at the school.

We have now approved an updated School Development Plan. Our aspiration is for this school to be recognised as the very good school that it is now on the path to becoming!

We were pleased with the good response to pupil, parent and staff surveys recently. In particular it is great to see how positive both you and your children are about the school and how much the children enjoy being here. We noted that behaviour and homework are two of the areas most commonly mentioned and we have agreed proposals from Ms Barnes for addressing the views raised.

Overall the feedback was very positive and it was really helpful for the School Council to come and talk to us directly so that we could hear their views first hand. We are lucky to have such a confident and caring group of pupils at this school.

Thank you for the positive way you engage with the school and thank you to Ms Barnes and her team for their enormous dedication to the children at Newport School.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming Open Evening and Spring Festival. If you have any questions for the Governing Body, please address any letters to me care of the school office.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Donnison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liam Donnison
Chair of IEB