Dear Parents/Guardians

Once again I find myself in the position of composing a letter to you all to mark the passing of another term and in this case the end of the academic year. In composing this letter I found myself reflecting on what has been a number of firsts for me, in my first year as Chair of the Governing Body, and for Nicola Moody as Head Teacher. To say the year has been eventful and challenging is indeed an understatement. So what do I put in the list of firsts from a fairly long list…..

Our first OFSTED inspection was an event the Staff and Governing body had been anticipating for some time and we had been preparing ourselves for; however, it did not soften the surprise and trepidation l felt when the call came of ‘OFSTED tomorrow and by the way Lawrie they want to see YOU!’ I will admit I did have some concerns, mainly that the staff would let their nerves get the better of them. However, for me there was never any doubt that Newport Junior School was a ‘GOOD’ school. My view was supported by OFSTED and under their new framework for inspection, which ‘upped the bar’, the overall grade was a well-deserved GOOD.

Our first SIAMS inspection was an event the Staff and Governing body had been anticipating; however, not within 4 weeks of OFSTED. Once again the staff rose to the challenge and as a result of their work and the changes Mrs Moody had started in enhancing the Spiritual well being of the pupils, the inspection assessed the School as GOOD with many outstanding features.

With both reports identifying areas for improvement the Governing Body, with the Head Teacher, have started the work in the areas identified to collectively take us to outstanding and beyond.

Another first, was the new teacher selection process for us both, a process I for one was glad I did not have to go through. The candidates were given the challenge of a ten minute teach on a maths related subject, a piece of work to mark and then a 30min interview with myself, Mrs Moody and Mr Rotherham. A tough test indeed! The outcome of this very interesting and diverse day was that we were lucky enough to find not one but two very talented young teachers who start in September 2017 and who both have much to offer the school.

The last of my ‘firsts’ is actually a second, in that it is the second year on the run that we came first in the Schools and Youth Groups section of Newport Carnival.

Throughout this year of firsts myself and the governing body, have seen through the leadership style Mrs Moody has brought to her new role, as Head teacher, the school beginning a new and exciting journey, one that continues to hold dear the principle of ‘Learning To Make A Difference ‘ and one that will continue to ensure that your children leave Newport Junior School with the skills and abilities to reason, explore, evaluate and become learners for life. I for one am excited by the prospect of where this journey will take us all.

Lastly on behalf of the Governing Body and yourselves I would like to thank all the Teaching Staff for their continued dedication to the pupils of Newport Junior School and congratulate them all on what has been a year they can be proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and I hope you all enjoy your Summer Holidays, where ever they may take you.

Lawrie Boardman

Chair of Governors