



*September 2017*

## **Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope that you and your children had an enjoyable summer holiday, and feel refreshed and ready for the new season. A special welcome to the new families starting this term. I do hope that your first weeks with the school are happy ones, and that your children settle in quickly. Please let your child's form teacher or year leader know if they have any problems, most can be sorted out quickly.

It's a pleasure to welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Miss Dodds to the school who will be supporting the school in our mission to raise standards – with a particular focus on teaching, learning and assessment.

## **Communication**

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We are committed to improving communication between school and home. Listed below are some new initiatives that have been put in place to support and aid in any issues that may need to be resolved throughout the year.

### **Website**

You may have noticed our new website and we are currently updating key information to make it easier for you to access key school information. We are using the News & Events section. Please take a look and let us know if you would like any additional information including. We will be sending more letters through our website to reduce cost so it is important to regularly visit the parents>letters section of the website. We will however prioritise information and post letters containing more urgent content.

### **Communication Strategy**

We recently introduced a new and important document in order to ensure commitment to improving communication. This document lists key people in school that you should contact if there are any issues. This can be located under the about>policies section of the website. Please refer to page 5 where it outlines appropriate members of staff to contact should any issue need to be discussed. Page 6 also outlines procedures to follow when making a compliment or complaint.

### **Student Passports**

The Passport is a vital tool to ensure you are kept up-to-date on your child's progress during lessons. There is an expectation that these are presented to the teacher each lesson and opened to allow any comments to be written in – especially noting positives and homework. We have communicated our expectations around the standard of these planners and they should be taken care of with no graffiti or damage. Please write any communication in the Passports so that your child can show the appropriate member of staff.



## Parent Governor Vacancies

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We currently have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors. The work of Governors is very varied in terms of responsibilities. They have an overriding responsibility for ensuring the direction of the school is sound and that suitable progress is being made in all aspects of its work. They also have statutory duties to ensure that national and local legislation is implemented, that policies are in place and acted upon and that the school is efficient and maximises the use of its budget. In terms of commitment, the minimum time that this work takes is through attendance at five Full Governing Body meetings per year and five meetings of one of our sub committees. Meetings start at 6.00pm and are usually held on Wednesday evenings. There will, occasionally, be additional meetings and Governors receive general invitations to school events, although there is no expectation that Governors attend these. The work of Governors is very interesting and gives those involved a real insight into educational issues and challenges. Governors can be sure that their work really does make a difference and impacts upon the quality of education that children receive. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please send an expression of interest including a brief description of why you want to become a Governor, for attention of The Chair of Governors. You can also do this via email using the details included in the letterhead.

## High Standards and Expectations

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**Vision:**

*Everyone Exceptional, Every Day.*

**Mission:**

*To enable everyone in our school community to achieve their very best.*

**Values:**

*Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Aspiration.*

Newsome has high hopes for your child and a new mission statement has been introduced to instil this across the school. Whilst most students will embrace this culture, some may take some time to understand and adjust to what this really means. We would be grateful if you could spend 5 minutes of your time referring to page 2, 12, 13 and 14 in your child's Passport to ensure they fully understand our school expectations and culture. Following the uniform reminder sent out in June, I am delighted to see a drastic improvement in the standards since we started back. The pastoral team will be in contact if there remains any issue in relation to this. It is vital that the passport is used if there is a valid reason for missing equipment and details can also be found on page 10.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you to ensure the further improvement at Newsome and the success of your child over the coming year and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dean Watkin  
Headteacher