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Dear Parents and Carers,

July 2023

I am writing this letter just after our final Governing Body meeting for this academic year during which we reviewed the feedback you kindly provided in the recent Parent Survey. We were delighted to see so many responses which mentioned a nurturing, or family, environment as well as how happy your children are, and how well they are doing at Newlands.

We were also pleased to read through your suggestions on how to improve the school which were very constructive. A handful of comments asked for the provision of wraparound care and additional after-school activities. For wraparound care, we believe any offering should be of a high quality and would need to be run by childcare specialists, which is why external providers have previously been approached and such a scheme trialled in the past. However, due to very low numbers of children making use of the provision, it has proved to be not commercially viable so had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, the school does not have the funds to subsidise this service from elsewhere in our budget.

However, the Government have announced an ambition for all primary schools to offer childcare provision from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from September 2026 and we have recently learned that Hampshire are one of the 16 Local Authorities that have been selected to take part in a pilot scheme which could commence the provision of such care from September 2024. We understand there will be some funding available (although we do not know how much) so we are hopeful that we may be able to tell you in the future what this will mean for Newlands. Staff will continue to voluntarily run some after-school clubs, but places must be restricted to ensure these clubs are run safely.

The Governing Body remain committed to ensuring parent and carer views are considered in strategic decision making, which is why surveys like this, as well as having dedicated parent governors, are so valuable. We also understand the importance of feeding back to you on how your views have influenced the decisions we've made, so please look out for future communications. In addition, if any parents wish to join the Governing Body, please do not hesitate to speak with the school.

Lastly, to all the families that are leaving Newlands this month, we hope you and your children are leaving with very fond memories and all of us on the Governing Body wish you every success in the future.

On behalf of the Governing Body,

Callum Whittern
Chair of Governors

Delivering a nurturing and inclusive environment to encourage growth of the individual