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Dear Parents and Carers,

This is my first letter to you as chair of governors and I wish to start by thanking the previous chair, Matthew Wynn, for his time and effort over the past years which have included the unique circumstances of a global pandemic on top of the real terms cuts to school spending which will remain as a key topic for governing boards nationwide.

Much of the board's focus this term has been on how Newlands can build on the successes of the Ofsted inspection which took place in February of this year. As the previous chair noted in his letter in April, the Ofsted inspector was extremely enthusiastic about numerous areas of the school, especially the development of the curriculum and this has been one area the board has been keen to grow. In particular, the board has looked at its own monitoring of the curriculum at Newlands and has introduced changes to the Improvement Committee meetings to give more opportunities for subject leaders to discuss their subjects.

In January, we welcome Mr Gray back from his secondment to the Federation of Wellington Community Primary School and Marlborough Infant School where he has been supporting them to develop their curriculum. The time Mr Gray spent at the schools is not only a flattering reflection on the work done by all staff at Newlands, but has given opportunity to reflect on how Newlands' own curriculum could continue to develop. I was delighted to hear, that following Mr Gray's work on geography for the federation, Hampshire have invited Mrs Sealey to present our wonderful geography curriculum at a county wide Geography cluster meeting, which again is high praise for both the work of the staff and the strength of the curriculum at Newlands.

I would also like to make you aware the school has vacancies for parent governors which we would like to fill as soon as possible. There will be further communication from the school in the new year on how you can apply, but in the meantime I strongly encourage all of you to give a thought to volunteering your time and expertise to this role.

Finally, I wish you all a pleasant Christmas break and look forward to a successful 2023.

On behalf of the school governing body,

Callum Whittern
Chair of Governors

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