



15 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is to update and reassure you with regard to next year at school.

We are continuing to get strong support and guidance from the Local Authority. Both Mrs McCallion and I have regular meetings with the Service Director for Education in Gateshead and his support, along with that of his colleagues, has been invaluable in helping the school move forward as much as it has so far. Their support will continue until we are out of the Requires Improvement Ofsted grading.

As I said in my last letter to you, part of the governing body's close work with the Local Authority has been to appoint a new Headteacher, who we all believe has exactly the right skills to continue taking Rowlands Gill where we know it should be. Neither Mrs McCallion nor Mrs Martin can be part of this process as they are both returning to their own schools, but they do so with our deepest gratitude for all they have done for us.

Unfortunately, although we received some good applications, there were too few that suited Rowlands Gill's specific needs so we were unable to take the applications forward to the interview stage. We refuse to risk appointing the wrong person; it is better to wait for a stronger field of candidates than risk making a poor choice.

Due to this, the Local Authority has arranged for one of their very experienced Headteachers to join us as acting Headteacher for the year ahead. Mr Jones is the Headteacher at Kelvin Grove Primary and is an Ofsted inspector who is ideally placed to help us with our ongoing improvements.

Arrangements are already in place for Mr Jones and Mrs McCallion to work together towards the end of this term and continuing in September to ensure that the work of this year is continued into the next academic year. Mr Jones will be joined by an acting deputy and will be making every effort to be at one or two of our school events this term so that you and the children can have the chance to meet him before September too.

We will restart the recruitment process early in the spring term next year. This will not only allow more of the changes at the school to be embedded, it will also allow us to time the recruitment process to when most candidates are looking to move. At the risk of tempting fate, we are therefore confident that we will have appointed a new permanent Headteacher by this time next year.

We also continue to do everything we can to resolve the staff absence problems we have had over the past year. Managing such things unfortunately takes time, but it will continue into next year, when we will be working with Mr Jones to bring these problems to a conclusion and minimise disruption in the classes.

Please be reassured that the school will be in very safe and experienced hands over the coming year. We are continuing to make great strides forwards, both that can be seen and those that are behind the scenes which we are unable to share with you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Graham Archer – Chair of Governors



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