



# NEWSLETTER

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## A message from Mrs Brannan

Well it certainly does feel like a case of blink and you'll miss it! Where did our 2022-23 academic year go? We definitely had a lot of fun, laughter and learning and we hope our children, staff, parents and carers have made many happy memories to cherish.

I hope you will join me in saying a huge thank you to all of our staff for their hard work this year in helping our children to be successful in all they do. I also want to thank you, our parents and carers for your continued support of our school. It is, as always, very much appreciated. I know this time of year is particularly busy and it has been amazing to see so many of you at our summer events.

It is also that time of year where we say farewell and good luck to our fantastic Year 6 children. You certainly demonstrated your talents and abilities during your farewell assembly and we loved hearing about your memories and funniest moments. We wish each and every one of you the very best of luck in your new schools; keep working hard, keep shining and being the very best you can be.

Today is the day we say a fond farewell to Mrs Burns. We all wish you the very best of luck in your new school. Although we will miss you, we know your new children will be very pleased to have you as their teacher! We also say goodbye to Miss Biggs, of course. After 28 years at Neville's Cross she has decided to take early retirement and take on a slower pace of life. We will certainly miss her being around school each day! I hope you will join me in wishing both Miss Biggs and Mrs Burns the very best for the future and many more happy memories to come!

Our staff team here at Neville's Cross wants to extend a huge thank you for all of the kind words, individual and collective staffroom gifts – we are overwhelmed by your generosity, thank you.

And finally, I wish you all a very restful and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing everyone back in September. Have a lovely break!

Mrs Brannan 😊

## A message from Miss Biggs

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would just like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, parents, carers and children for all of the lovely messages and gifts that I have received.

My 28 years at Neville's Cross has been such a wonderful journey. I have worked with fantastic staff, past and present and built some great relationships with parents, carers and most of all the children.

I will take away with me some unforgettable memories which will stay with me forever. Finally, I would like to wish everyone involved with this great school every success in the future.

Best wishes,

Miss Biggs

## A message from our Chair of Governors, Mr Rory Whaling

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Board of Neville's Cross Primary and Nursery School would like to say thank you for your understanding and support once again during the last school year.

After the previous difficult couple of years, we had all hoped that some normality may return and the school would be able to take a breath and focus entirely on your children's development. However, it seems we are not out of the woods yet and we are now seeing a real strain on families and school finances with the increased cost of living.

This has led to another challenge with the decision of the teaching unions to ballot their members on strike action to call for additional funding for schools and increased pay award for teachers. The NEU members voted to support strike action, leading to 8 days of striking. I can understand what a difficult decision it must have been for teachers to take action, given that their sole focus is the support and development of your children. They also suffered the loss of a days pay during any strike days. Managing the strikes was a challenge for all schools and Head Teachers had the difficult task of deciding how best to keep the school open for as many children as possible. The board appreciates the strain this has made to the lives of parents and carers, school staff and especially the children. We have been impressed with the way the whole school community has dealt with the strikes and believe the school is well placed to benefit from the resilience gained through overcoming these challenges. Yet again, it brings home the

importance of family and community support, which is a key part of the ethos of Neville's Cross. Thankfully, it looks like the government have offered new pay and funding terms which is being supported by all parties, so hopefully the new year will be strike free.

The board recognises the huge effort that all staff have made over the last year to support the SLT and the embedding of a new curriculum focus. The school has also just been given the Platinum School Games award for our commitment to the sporting curriculum. This is fantastic and recognises the hard work and dedication of Miss Biggs and Mrs Knowd and shows the rounded approach to your children's education taken at Neville's Cross. The focus of the school has always been and will continue to be, to provide the best possible outcome for all the children who are part of the Neville's Cross family.

We would like to say a special thank you to all the year 6 children, parents and carers for choosing Neville's Cross for your primary education and for your contribution to the school over the years you have attended. We wish you all the best for your next adventure in education and we hope that the balanced and supportive learning environment Neville's Cross provides, stands you in good stead.

To all the children, parents and carers who are remaining with us and those who will be joining in September, we look forward to continuing to provide an inclusive family where all are nurtured to become creative, confident and resilient learners supported to reach their unique potential.

With best regards,

Rory Whaling (on behalf of the Governing Board)

### **Good Gym session – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

We have grand plans to have a tidy up of our outdoor area during the summer holidays. Northumbrian Water kindly supported a refurbishment of our Forest School area which looks fantastic and we want to make sure other areas are equally as inviting for our children and families. We are working with Hannah Lindsey (parent) to raise interest in a 'GoodGym' session on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30am. You are very much invited to join in the 'gym' section of the day and complete a run/walk workout and then get busy moving, weeding, cleaning, painting etc. in our school grounds – the 'good' section of the day. There is no obligation to complete the 'gym' section and if you would prefer to volunteer only we would like to welcome you at 10:30am. Childcare will be provided in school and we can accommodate children from 3 years – 11 years and around 20 children can be accommodated (unless further volunteers come forward). If you would like to join in please contact school via text and let us know whether you

would like childcare. Alternatively, if you are able to support in any other way, we would also love to hear from you. If you have any bright gloss paints lurking in your cupboards/shed/garage at home, donations would be gratefully received. Bring along your gardening tools, paintbrushes, scrubbing brushes, buckets etc and let's see if we can make a collective difference. Thank you.