



# Heartwood CE VC Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher Mrs Emily McMillen  
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Rebecca Starman



July 2024

Dear families of Heartwood

May I start by thanking you all for your support over the last school year, a year that has seen the school grow from strength to strength, and one in which we have had some changes to the Governing Body.

In January we were very sorry to say goodbye to our Chair of Governors, Kim Stabler, who is now recovering from surgery. Kim is a passionate supporter of the school and gave a great deal of her time to the school, as well as making sure that the governors were keeping up with their school responsibilities. On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank Kim for all her hard work and to wish her a full recovery – and perhaps a return at a later date? I would also like to thank Davina Craske, David Finbow and Lorraine Barnes, all of whom left the Governing Body during the course of this year, for their contributions to the strategic development of Heartwood. At the time of writing we have welcomed Steff Clarke (Parent Governor), Phoebe Harrison (Local Authority Governor), Rebecca Watts (Staff Governor) and John Reeve-Hayes (Co-opted Governor) to the governing body and we look forward to having a full complement of governors for September.

The Heartwood community is the foundation that everything is built upon and one of the highlights of the year was the art exhibition. I was lucky enough to be able to attend this event and as well as admiring the range and quality of the children's work, I was also really impressed with the number of parents and relatives who came along to see the work for themselves. There was such a buzz in the hall, a combination of children keen to show what they had produced and parents who were equally proud of what their child had achieved. This event really did reflect the school's ethos of "Learn to love – love to learn".

As governors one of our key roles is to challenge the school, this challenge helping to ensure that everything that happens at Heartwood is based upon providing your child with the best education possible. It would be much easier to educate children if they could be programmed to absorb the National Curriculum and get full marks in all those tests. Fortunately, every child is a unique individual, an individual who will develop their own skills, interests and fascination with life. The skill of the teacher is to provide learning experiences that provide the spark for each child to make the most of their potential. We are so lucky at Heartwood to have a staff team who do their utmost to provide the children with exciting, diverse learning opportunities in a safe and caring environment so, on behalf of the governors, I would like to thank each and every one of the staff for their hard work and dedication.

As we look to the end of this school year, I have the unique opportunity to wish all of our Year 6 pupils every success as they move onto the next stage of their education. This is the first time that Heartwood has had a Year 6 cohort so we will look forward to hearing about their successes at high school.

Finally, I would like to thank you again, parents and carers, for all that you do to support and encourage your child as a pupil at Heartwood. When things are going well, please take the time to tell your child's teacher or teaching assistant or the headteacher or the cook or the office staff or the caretaker – anyone at the school – because we all like to hear good news! When things are not going so well, please talk to someone as soon as possible and you are always welcome to contact me if you think I can help in any way – [lee.stevens@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:lee.stevens@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Lee Stevens  
Acting Chair of Governors



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

**Learn to Love – Love to Learn!**  
'Live life in all its fullness.' John 10:10