

August 2025

Dear Heartwood families.

This has been a very busy year for Heartwood, busy and successful, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support you have given to your child and to the school. We all recognise that education is a key element of your child developing into a well-balanced, inquisitive and motivated adult, someone who can look forward to a fulfilling journey through life. The more that home and school can work together, the more likely it is that your child will develop into just such an adult.

We were sorry to say a final farewell to Mrs. McMillen at the end of the autumn term. Heartwood grew and flourished during her time as headteacher and her passionate commitment to providing a caring and stimulating learning environment is the significant legacy she leaves behind. The governors started the recruitment process at the beginning of January and we were very fortunate to have a good response to the advert. The two interview days saw four very capable candidates being given a range of tasks and interviews to try and find just the right person for Heartwood – and we found just the right person in Mrs. Starman.

As governors, our role is to support and challenge the school to make sure that the best possible learning is embedded throughout the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the governors for their hard work over the last year and I know that we will continue to work with Mrs. Starman and the staff to reach even higher standards. There is no doubt that there are a lot of “green shoots” in terms of the results being achieved in the various tests that the children complete as they move through the school, but I want to be very clear that we are all ambitious in wanting the standards to be even higher.

Education is not just about tests and academic achievement, important though those are, and Heartwood is fully committed to providing as wide a range of learning as possible. Whether it is through the wide range of clubs, activities such as the very successful Colour Run, the opportunity to worship together at the parish church or running parent workshops such as the internet safety evening, our school really does try see every child as a unique individual.

Finally, looking ahead to the 25/26 school year, I hope you and your child will have a very happy and successful year with Heartwood. We all recognise that sometimes things do not go as we hope, so please come and talk to the staff if you have any concern or anxiety – a small concern is much easier to deal with than a big problem. If I can be of any help in helping resolve any problems, please contact me either via the school office or at

lstevens@heartwood.norfolk.sch.uk

Lee Stevens

Chair of Governors