



**The Federation of Snape Community and
Thornton Watlass C E Primary Schools**

Two great schools, together



www.stwschools.org

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THORNTON WATLASS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

As the new Chair, and on behalf of all the Governors, I want to wish both new and current parents a very warm welcome to the Federation of Snape and Thornton Watlass. Within the Federation governors, staff, parents and children work as a team, building on success, in an atmosphere of care where everyone feels valued.

As Governors we become involved with a variety of issues including finance, pupil welfare, public relations, building/grounds maintenance and staff appointments. However, without a doubt, we consider that our most important role is to monitor the welfare and education of the pupils and therefore may I take this opportunity to remind parents to refrain from taking children out of school during term time as it has a huge negative impact on their education.

It is with great sadness that the Governors have taken the decision to put the gardening project at Thornton Watlass on hold. We believe that the future of the two schools is in the wrap-around care that could be provided for those parents who work full time. We are investigating the feasibility and logistics of this, which includes the possible use of the space designated for the project, but it is not something that will happen overnight. This decision was not taken lightly considering the wonderful work, time, effort and enthusiasm that has been put into this project by all those concerned.

Alongside this, Thornton Watlass School will be going through a facelift during 2012/13, with hopefully some new sinks in the classrooms, a designated

staffroom, a new dividing door between Classroom 2 and the Hall, redecoration and the children returning to school in September 2013 to a brand new kitchen! We have a new cook, Karen Palin, who uses only fresh ingredients and is flexible in her approach to the menu and I believe there are some wonderful aromas emanating from the kitchen so if you wish your child to have a home-cooked, balanced and tasty meal at lunchtime please do let the school know.

Ofsted visited Snape School at the end of last term and, surprisingly, they had a very pleasant inspector! Although the school was judged to be Satisfactory overall we can celebrate that Snape has outstanding pupil behaviour with good leadership and management. The report says 'The headteacher, supported by a willing and energetic governing body, sets high expectations for pupils and staff and has injected increased ambition over the last year which has raised the quality of pupils' education. Teaching is improving... The federation with another school is widening opportunities for staff to share expertise and has widened options for pupils' learning. The governing body is an effective group. It has worked diligently to increase its effectiveness... and share her vision and support the strategies to raise pupils' achievement'.

Improvements in the leadership and management are therefore having a very positive effect on the outcomes for pupils. But since this inspection Ofsted have changed the rules and terminology, again, and therefore schools that were Satisfactory are now said to be "Requires Improvement". Ofsted really know how to use words to make a school feel worthy!!

Governors are appointed to ensure that objectives are met and that planning for the future is both visionary and realistic. We are here to support and encourage the Headteacher and all school personnel so that children have access to an enriched education and the opportunities they deserve.

I am available to parents for any matter relating to the school, once you have discussed it with the Headteacher, and I am sure any one of the Governors listed below would be happy to provide any information you may need or to discuss any issues you may have. Parents and governors have key roles in helping The Federation of Snape and Thornton Watlass maintain high standards for all our children both now, and for future generations.

With very best wishes

Liz Dodsworth

Chair of Governors

Simon Roskrow - *Community Governor and Vice Chair*

Sarah Jardin - *Foundation Governor*

Nick Broadwith - *Foundation Governor*

Gareth Jones - *Parent Governor*

Inga Tordoff - *Parent Governor*

Nicola Askin - *Parent Governor*

Victoria Bush - *Parent Governor*

Caroline Hunter - *Parent Governor*

Moray Nicholson - *LA Governor*

Richard Corner - *LA Governor*

Carol Thompson - *Staff Governor*

Joanne Miller - *Staff Governor*