**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL**

7th September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new Headteacher of Russell Lower School, and to welcome you to what I know will be a very busy and exciting 2015/16.

I am joining the school having spent most of the last eighteen years as a teacher (in FS, KS1 and KS2) in educational leadership, including both as assistant and deputy head, all with successful OFSTED outcomes and having undertaken the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). Teaching, learning and children are my absolute passions. I believe education secures freedom, security and choice for our children and that school should be vibrant, fun, positive community where children love learning, achieving, developing and playing together. I am really looking forward to using my experience, energy, enthusiasm and passion to do everything possible so your children have the best possible start to their learning journey.

As the academic year gets under way, I will be systematically exploring how the school ‘works’ and make it my mission to find and build upon all the incredibly strong practice already in place. My immediate priority will be meeting as many of the children and their families as possible and learning as many names as quickly as I can! I can learn the names of a class of 30 children in a morning but it might take me slightly longer for a school of 300 children!

As a mum of two myself, I know that I generally wanted four things for my children: to be happy, healthy, to be safe and to learn. As the Headteacher I want the very same things for your children and a whole lot more! I actively sought out the Headship at Russell Lower School because of its incredibly strong ethos and culture including its open door policy, its commitment to real and exciting learning opportunities which leads to not only the development of strong academic skills and abilities but also personal qualities such as confidence, independence, perseverance and respect. The strongest evidence I can give you to demonstrate my total and utter belief and commitment to Russell is that I chose it (quite a few years ago now!) for both of my own children. It was as clear then as it is now, that the highly skilled and talented staff and governors at the school also held the same beliefs and continue to be as committed now to work hard to move Russell from strength to strength.

The only way that we can provide the very best for the children is to work in partnership with you and the rest of our community. I shall be asking a lot of questions to help make key decisions, many of which will affect how we work most effectively with parents and carers to ensure that all children enjoy school, become confident and independent, excel in their learning and are incredibly proud of their achievements.

All of this means that I really want to know how you feel about the school and I would ask that you take a few minutes to give me your views on the attached form. If you would like to complete some or all of it with your child that would be even better! I really value your opinions.

I am really excited about working with the incredible team here at Russell and am looking forward to meeting and working in partnership with you so we can create an exceptional school together. One where children really love coming every day and consequently thrive. If I can help in any way please do not hesitate to ask. I will aim to be as visible as possible: do come and grab me!

Kind Regards

Nicki Walker

Headteacher

**Parent View Survey September 2015**

\*Personal details are optional

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \*Name of Child(ren) | \*Name of Parent/Carer(s) |
| \*Class(es) | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree or disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| 1 | My child is happy at this school |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | My child feels safe at this school |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | My child makes good progress at this school |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | My child is well looked after at this school |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | My child is taught well at this school |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | My child receives appropriate homework for their age |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | This school ensures the pupils are well behaved |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | This school deals effectively with bullying |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | This school is well led and managed |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | This school responds well to any concern I raise |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | I would recommend this school to another parent |  |  |  |  |  |

Any further comments: (Please continue overleaf if necessary)