



July 2024

Dear Families and Carers,

Here we are again at the end of another successful and eventful year for our schools.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and patience during the school year. It is greatly appreciated. Schools in the GST cannot do what we do without the support of our wonderful families.

Our schools continue to manage the legacy of the pandemic. This can be seen in our increased numbers of children with SEND. It is becoming increasingly the case that children with SEND needs have not been assessed before they reach school age. All our families place huge trust in our schools to care for their children. Thank you for your patience in supporting our teachers and support staff as we endeavour to identify, with other professionals, the best support package to meet their needs. It is increasingly taking a long time to put care plans into action. We all appreciate how frustrating this can be for everyone involved. Please be assured that our schools are working as hard as possible for all our children and we thank you for your support.

Budgets continue to be challenging for all schools with rising costs of services and materials. This means our schools are working creatively to balance the books and protect the quality of the education for our children. All our schools are working with the Local Authority to get financial information that will help our schools plan effectively.

I know some of our families have been disappointed with the transition arrangements again this year. It is a huge relief that work has at last started on the new school in Gosforth Great Park. We all look forward to a better working relationship with Gosforth Academy. It is part of our core business that all our schools prepare our children for the next stage of the learning and that the move to their new school is as smooth as possible.

As another school year comes to an end it is a pleasure to celebrate the success not only of all our schools but also to applaud the progress our children have made and to appreciate their achievement. One of the

cornerstones of the GST is to embed different ways of working so our children are resilient and understand how to be emotionally literate. This is such an important life skill. The GST have invested in training across all our schools in wellbeing training on our recent joint training day. This will be greatly beneficial for our children and will be a key area for development next year.

Our schools are constantly improving the learning environment and a lot of our schools have worked hard and creatively this year to tackle small areas of refurbishment. Gosforth Park First School have now expanded into the old Broadway East First School site. This has been a very successful working relationship between builder, Local Authority and school with the work being completed ahead of time and on budget. Work should begin during 2024 – 2025 on the new Regent Farm First School. This is an exciting project that I am sure will not be without its challenges.

I would like to personally thank all our teachers, staff and Head teachers for all their hard work over the year. It is in the small things that are often unseen everyday in our schools that is the “glue that binds a community together”; the thoughtful acts of kindness, the extra time spent talking to a child, the listening ear or even the ready smile that can make such a difference to our children and turn their day around. Teaching is a very rewarding profession but the “teaching” is increasingly only one part of the job. We should appreciate what the staff of all our schools do for our families and applaud their dedication, commitment and belief in our children. What our staff achieve and do for our children is inspirational. Thank you on behalf of the GST.

I hope that you will be able to enjoy some time with family and friends during the summer break.

I look forward to working with you all next year and thank you for continued support.

Karen Elliott  
Chair of the GST