 ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

5th September 2017

Dear Parents/carers

We do hope you had a good summer holiday. The children have returned refreshed and looking forward to the new academic year. As the new Head teacher, I am delighted to return to Archbishop Runice Cof E First School after 15 years, previously as the Deputy Head teacher. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with you all to provide the very best for our children. I would like to invite you to drop in sessions for parents/carers over the next two weeks to meet me over a cup of coffee. These are to be held in the hall on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th September – 9.00-10.30a.m

Thursday 7th September – 1.45-3.15p.m

Wednesday 13th September – 4-6.30p.m

**NB – the change of some times.**

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings but still would like to meet with me please contact me at school to arrange a convenient time. Thank you

**Result of Our Recent Ofsted Inspection**

As some of you will be aware, the school’s Ofsted Inspection took place on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July and it will be published on the Ofsted website on Thursday, the delay in publication due to the summer holidays. A copy of the full report is attached for your ease of reference or if you would like a hard copy please ask at reception. The staff and governors are very grateful to you as parents for your support during the Ofsted Inspection and were very pleased that so many of you contributed your views to the Ofsted online survey and were willing to talk frankly with the inspectors who commented that ‘parents are very positive about the school and would recommend it to others.’

The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be “requires improvement” with the main area for improvement being pupil’s outcomes which is an area we had already identified and had already been taking decisive action to address with the support of the Diocese to improve pupil outcomes. We were pleased that the inspectors recognised this in the report and confirmed that this action has ‘halted the decline in standards’ that we have already made ‘plans for improving the work of the school identify the correct priorities’ and we recognise that we need to be more challenging and ambitious in our targets to raise achievement. We were also pleased that the inspectors recognised that “governors are highly motivated and committed to the school” and “they articulate confidently their vision for the future and the determination to raise pupils’ achievement and while disappointed with the outcome we are confident with the new Head teacher, the continued support of the Diocese and the Local Authority and our school community together with the determination and dedication of all we will quickly see pupils outcomes improving.

We were pleased that Ofsted did recognise the many strengths of our school and that Personal development, Behaviour and Welfare and early years provision were judged as good. We were aware as Ofsted recognised that consistency was needed across the early years and we have already started to address this. It is a delight to read that “pupils are proud of their school and are well behaved and well mannered, as well as being recognised as having a strong understanding of their social responsibilities as stewards of God. The Ofsted inspectors also recognised that additional funding for sports being effectively used with “participation in sports and increased so pupils are more active and fitness has improved”, leaders promoting British values well, safeguarding as effective, reading as a strong feature of the school., and teaching assistants providing effective additional support. We were pleased the inspectors found that the children felt “very safe in school and their teachers help them with their concerns” and parents endorsed their view.

The Governing Body, Mrs Henry and Mrs Massey have been meeting regularly since the initial feedback was given to us immediately after the inspection with the Diocese and Local Authority to formulate a plan to address the issues raised by Ofsted as quickly as possible. Ofsted will return to our school in the early part of 2018, or earlier to monitor our progress and we will share their findings as soon as they are received. We are confident that we have all of the right strategies in place to further improve our school and we look forward to Ofsted returning to endorse the progress we will have made. We recognise the importance of the partnership between home and school in achieving the very best for our children so we will continue to involve you in school life and update you regularly on the progress we are making.

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to discuss further please contact us via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Denise Henry Mrs S Hawkins

Headteacher Chair of Governors