***11 September 2017***

At the end of my first week as the new Head teacher of Archbishop Runcie C of E First School I would like to thank the children and their families, staff and governors and members of the local community for making me feel so welcome. It has been an absolutely pleasure getting to know you and I am really looking forward to continue to do so during the next few weeks. Thank you very much for your patience while I learn names, match children to parents, learn the routines and even where to find things! The children have settled back into school so well and are keen to start the new academic year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my busy first week with with Monday’s staff development day (focus upon effective teams, and Ofsted Action Planning), meetings with parents and staff, leading worship and teaching in Year 2, as well as becoming familiar with the Newcastle Local Authority’s computer systems. The Ofsted Report was published this week and thank you to all for being so open and honest and providing many excellent comments during the drop in sessions. It was clear the disappointment felt by parents, staff and governors but everyone is so supportive and encouraging, recognising the strengths of the school and keen to address the identified areas to move forward. Mrs Massey, our Deputy Head teacher, Mrs Sarah Hawkins, our Chair of Governors and myself have already started to analyse the comments provided by staff and parents. This week the children will be asked their views regarding the strengths and areas of development and there is another parent drop in session on Wednesday. The comments will support the Ofsted Action Plan and I will provide a regular update regarding progress.

I would also like to welcome the new parents and staff to our school and thank in particularly the Reception parents for being supportive with the changes in the entrance door. The door is open at 8.40 a.m. for those parents who need to walk around to drop off older children. Changes have been made in order to ensure high quality provision across both Nursery and Reception and address the inconsistencies within early years raised by Ofsted. If you would like to discuss further please come to see me. Thank you.

If you were unable to attend any of the drop in sessions please feel free to make an appointment to see me. I do genuinely offer an open door policy so please just ask at Reception and Mrs McCloud will establish whether I am available or arrange an appointment.

Thank you again for your support. ***Mrs Denise Henry***