

AMBLECOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021



Message from the Chair of Governors

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year!

I can't believe that the Autumn term is over and what a term it had been! Over Christmas, I reflected on what has been a yet another challenging start to another school year, with ever changing guidelines for us to follow and varying restriction measures still in place at school.

I must extend a huge thank you to the pupils, parents and carers, and staff for all their efforts in continuing to work together, as we entered another school year, with Covid still impacting on our daily lives. It is apparent that the clear aim for Mrs Cook and her team has been to concentrate on what is important for the children, and to continue focusing on providing a safe and appropriate learning environment.

Back in September, we met with Mrs Cook and Mrs Pickett to review and discuss the school's key priorities and gain an understanding of the expectations the teachers will have for their new classes. While the strategic view centred on the children's learning objectives, the day to day focus was clearly around settling the children in to their new classes, and re-establishing school life in a new class with new teachers. While Mrs. Cook and I have been in regular contact throughout the term, it was absolute pleasure at the end of September, to spend the day in school visiting all classes, observing some wonderful lessons, talking to the children and looking through their books. There was a positive atmosphere throughout the school and for me this highlighted importantly, the manner in which the children have really settled in and embraced school life.

As last term has drawn to an end, I must say, the last week was so special with a visit from the Circus, Christmas parties, performances from the choir, Christmas jumper day or the annual Reindeer Run; it is these activities that really put a smile on the children's faces.

As our attentions now turn to the New Year, all that is left for me to say, is I wish everyone the best for 2022. Let's make this another good year together!

Mrs Claire Roberts
Chair of Governors
croberts@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk

SPRING TERM MEETING DATES

Resources Committee
Monday 21st March

Curriculum & Standards Committee
Thursday 24th March

Full Governing Body
Thursday 31st March

A WARM WELCOME & A FOND FAREWELL

I would like to say a warm welcome to our newest Parent Governor – Miss Holdcroft. Miss Holdcroft has three children at Amblecote and we look forward to welcoming her at future meetings.

I would also like to say fond farewell to Mr Tom Wade who has been a Co-opted Governor at Amblecote Primary for 5 years.

Tom has always supported the school and provided knowledge and guidance on all things Health & Safety! Thank you for everything Tom and we wish you all the best for the future!

GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Board for a Co-opted Governor.

From analysing our current Governor skills matrix, we require someone who can offer skills, knowledge and experience in the field of Health & Safety.

If you might be interested, or simply want to find out a little more about what the role would entail, please email the Chair of Governors directly at croberts@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk

AMBLECOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

WHO WE ARE

- Jane Cook (Headteacher)
- Chair: Claire Roberts (Co-Opted Governor & Chair of Curriculum and Standards Committee)
- Vice Chair: Vicky Waterfield (Co-Opted Governor)
- Craige Brooks (Co-Opted Governor & Chair of Resources Committee)
- Jane Nethercott (Co-Opted Governor)
- Emma Arnold (Co-Opted Governor)
- Ruth Power (Co-Opted Governor)
- Marie Pickett (Staff Governor)
- Naomi Sevier (Parent Governor)
- Tom Dipple (Parent Governor)
- Victoria Holdcroft (Parent Governor)

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Co-Opted Governor
- LA Governor

The Committees:

The Resources Committee	The Curriculum & Standards Committee
Responsible for finance, premises and personnel	Responsible for everything related to the school curriculum and communication
Craige Brooks- Chair of Committee Claire Roberts Vicky Waterfield Jane Nethercott Emma Arnold Marie Pickett Ruth Power Victoria Holdcroft	Claire Roberts - Chair of Committee Vicky Waterfield Tom Dipple Naomi Sevier Emma Arnold Marie Pickett Ruth Power Victoria Holdcroft

Other responsibilities:

As well as being members of committees, Governors take on responsibility for particular areas ('links').

The Link Governors for this year are:

Area / Subject	Link Governor	Area / Subject	Link Governor
Safeguarding	Claire Roberts	Science	Tom Dipple
Children Looked After	Claire Roberts	Computing	Craige Brooks
EYFS	Jane Nethercott	RE	Victoria Waterfield
Pupil Premium	Craige Brooks	Geography & History	Ruth Power & Tom Dipple
Sports Premium	Craige Brooks	PHSE & RSE	Naomi Sevier
SEND	Vicky Waterfield & Emma Arnold	Art	Vicky Waterfield
Governor Training	Vicky Waterfield	D & T	Tom Dipple
Health & Safety	TBC	Music	Naomi Sevier
English	Claire Roberts & Tom Dipple	French	Vicky Waterfield
Maths	Craige Brooks	PE	Craige Brooks

Each term the subject leaders within school will meet with their Link Governor and share a written report with them regarding developments within that subject area.

ROLE OF A GOVERNOR

As set out in our Code of Conduct for the Governing Body document, the governing body has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic direction by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensuring financial probity by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

To ensure these core strategic functions are met, each individual governor has a role to play within the governing body. While the role demands a level of time and effort, the Governing Board work together as a team and all accept fair responsibility in effectively meeting our statutory duties.

As individual governors we are expected to:

- rigorously and consistently monitor SIP targets and data to ensure progress
- participate in events and training opportunities throughout the year
- be a link governor for a subject area or key stage
- ask questions to explore issues further
- ensure we deliver the very best education possible for the children in Amblecote Primary School
- seek to provide the appropriate balance of support and challenge so that the school fulfils its statutory duties
- strive to build further on achievements.

AUTUMN TERM GOVERNOR INVOLVEMENT:

- Interview and appointment of Deputy Head Teacher – Mr Marie Pickett
- Interview and appointment of SEND Teaching Assistant
- Monitoring the school's current financial situation (Budget)
- Attendance at Governor Training
- Attendance whole school Safeguarding INSET and Vision and Values INSET Day
- Learning walks and Link Governor visits
- Head Teacher Appraisal targets
- Monitoring of Pupils' work
- Checking of school's Single Central Record
- SEND Meetings

