

Governors' Newsletter

DUDDON ST. PETER'S
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governing Body

Chair

Katie Pierce

Vice-Chair

Rev. Adam Friend

Head teacher

Paul Hudson

Staff Governor:

Lesley Garnham

Parent Governors:

Helen Chapman

Foundation Governors

Steve Latham

Barbara King

LA Governor:

Abigail Hope

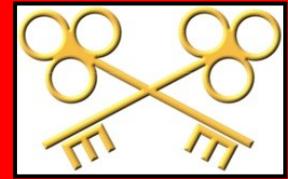
Co-opted Governors:

Claire Entwistle

Jackie Wilson

Liz Smith

Summer 2022



With us fast approaching the end of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to all school staff, parents, fellow governors and most importantly the children for making this a fantastic year.

The year has not been without its challenges but we are fortunate to have hard working dedicated staff who have done their utmost to return to normality for the children and to encourage and support them in their return to a full school year, the first for some pupils.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to some of our staff, and on behalf of our school community I thank them for their many years of dedication to school; they will be greatly missed. I know you will join me in wishing all those leaving a very happy new chapter in their lives.

Over this summer term it has been wonderful to see so many parents visiting school and enjoying recent events, such as the camping night, jubilee celebrations, sports day and the school concerts. As we return in September for our new school year, hopefully this community spirit will continue to grow and flourish and we can enjoy coming together to support the children.

Finally, we wish you all a fun packed summer holidays which hopefully includes some time to take a break and relax from routine. We bid a fond farewell to our Year Six pupils and wish them well in their exciting journey to high school, and those other pupils who are moving on elsewhere. We look forward to welcoming everyone else back in September.

Katie Pierce

SEND Governor update

As SEND governor it has been lovely to visit classrooms again and see how children are being supported in their learning. I receive termly updates from Natasha Newport, SENDCo but learning does come alive when you can see it in the classroom.

It was wonderful to watch Class Two and Class Three children painting pictures of the Queen for the Jubilee celebrations. I am so glad that it was Adam who had to choose the winner, as there were so many different artistic styles, including some Jackson Pollock – I came away with a few paint splatters of my own. Some Class Two pupils proudly shared the letters they had written to the Queen and told me all about the Royal Family. Class One were busy preparing for a trip on my first visit and told me about the minibeasts they hoped to discover. It was interesting to see the creative ways that children were being taught Literacy and Maths across school and I joined in with lots of the activities.

Thank you to the staff for welcoming me into their classes – I learnt new things too!
Helen Chapman

Some of the children from the Duddon Junior Choir were able to join the St Andrew's Church Choir for the Jubilee weekend. We had one service only on that day and came together as churches and a community to celebrate her majesty's 70th year as Queen. If you would like to Join the Junior Choir next year then please watch out for the information that will come out in the new term.

News from the church.....

We continue to have a coffee morning every Thursday 10am -11am if you want to join us please do pop along, free tea, coffee and biscuits!

Anyone wanting to join us for Sunday Worship this is at 9.30am in Duddon Church.

Thought from the Vicar....

As we come to the end of a term which has seen many stresses and strains in all people's lives, I hope that our children will get a rest too. We know that they have missed being in school and there is still of lot of things we don't know about how that will affect them in the future; I know that through my own children.

One thing we need to be aware of through our stress, is that the way we treat each other is an example to our children. We have all had those moments where we have become enraged, if not then you really are an angel! It is how we treat others in all spheres of our lives that our children learn. At home and anywhere, our children always see more than we give them credit for. We also all have off days which is why we can say sorry, and be an example to show our children too as they learn to live in the world that we do.

If you are able over the summer period, spend some time just cosying up as a family. I see it in my own life, that I am busy doing, if, as parents, we are not a taxi then there are always chores to do in the house. I ask you to take some time and stop and just be, the chores will still be there the next day.

Rev Adam Friend Vicar



Teaching & Learning Committee

The Teaching & Learning Committee met in June to review pupil progress across the spring term. Governors were shown our online system of assessment, Classroom Monitor, to aid their understanding of how judgements are reached.

This year, children in Year Four used the new Multiplication Time Tables Check which they had to complete as a timed tasks online and Year One children completed the Phonics test. Year Six pupils sat their end of key stage SATs for the first time since 2019—this was challenging due to the absence of them during Covid, and considering the time they had lost in school during this time.

The Committee has also considered the ways in which Ofsted will view the school when it next inspects, and some of the changes in the way in which curriculum subjects are being delivered.

Liz Smith

Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee



The return of a more normal school year in 2021—2022:

Despite the recent numbers of Covid cases beginning to rise again, we have managed to maintain a far more normal school year. Residential visits were at last able to take place with Class One enjoying their overnight stay at Burwardsley; Class Three experiencing Viking life in York; Classes Two and Four visiting Castleton together and at last, Year Six were able to have their usual transition trip with THS at the Conway Centre. These have been amazing and invaluable experiences for them all.

We have also been able to see the children performing at Christmas and recently in their Summer Concert, taking part in the usual Church services and Sports Day, our summer and Christmas fairs and generally allowing everyone to mix socially as we have always done. It has been a very welcome return for all the children to enjoy those events. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to bring back these opportunities for our children.



Thank you to everyone who gave their time to complete the Governors' Survey. The results were discussed at the May FGB meeting. Several themes came out of the survey and although some of these were not surprising following the pandemic and recent governor changes, governors are working on improvements. We have already re-started the governor newsletters, held governor surgeries for staff and parents, visited classes, led assemblies and had refresher training on school assessment tools.

As a body we have welcomed a number of new members over the past year or so and it has been challenging taking on this new role during Covid whilst meeting via Zoom. The current year has seen a welcome return to face to face meetings enabling us to work more effectively together. In the coming year we have the following focus based on some feedback received from the surveys:

- To increase the pupils' awareness of who governors are and their purpose in the school.
- For each governor to have a particular area they are responsible for and to ensure that this is clear to the school community.
- Pupils would like governors to talk to them about their learning, the school environment and to meet with the School Council.
- To spend more time with school staff and in school to better improve our understanding of the staff workloads and the day to day classroom environment.
- To continue to increase communication and visibility with the school community.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, feedback or are interested in becoming a school governor.



National Tutoring Programme

I have previously enjoyed going into school to hear readers from Class One and Two but now I have much more fun as I take small groups of children for one hour tutoring in school. Having taught in Primary schools for over 30 years, it seemed a pity to let my skills get rusty when there was a need for help in school. The children are very patient with me and have done some excellent work. On a Monday, one group does writing and spellings and have written about what they would save from a fire, their families and transport in 1666. On a Thursday I work one to one with three children helping them on organising and improving their writing skills and I complete my time on a Friday with a one to one, revising and understanding times tables and then two children with writing, developing their ideas, vocabulary and story structure. We have lots of laughs, play silly games but enjoy learning together and hopefully, mending some of the gaps in their learning. They are lovely, responsive children and it is such a pleasure to teach them.

Rev. Barbara King Foundation Governor

