

# 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  
Rebecca Butcher

### Foundation Governors

Steve Latham  
Barbara King

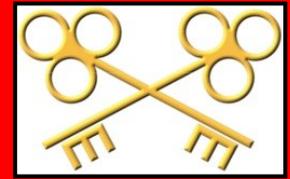
### LA Governor:

Abigail Hope

### Co-opted Governors:

Claire Entwistle  
Jackie Wilson  
Liz Smith

December 2022



Welcome to this edition of the Duddon St Peter's Governing Body Newsletter.

The Autumn term is nearing the end and it is the time of year where there are much festivities to enjoy in school. I hope everyone has enjoyed the Christmas plays this week and all the hard work the children and staff have put into these for our enjoyment. There are more events to come before the end of term and I'm sure the children are all very excited for Christmas.

With a return to what we recognise as a normal school year there has been a significant amount of work done to ensure all pupils are achieving their potential and we are sure you will join us in thanking each and every member of staff for their continued dedication and commitment to making this happen. We have welcomed new staff and pupils to school this term and everyone is settling in very well.

It is fantastic to see a new energised PTA team as this is an important link between school and parents / carers and the wider community. There was a very successful and enjoyable quiz recently which also raised much needed funds for school.

A big thank you to everyone who is involved and volunteering their time and effort, we look forward to more events to come.

We have a new parent governor Becky Butcher and we are delighted to welcome her to our governing body. Becky has many skills and experience and you can find out more about Becky later in the newsletter.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body I would like to wish all of our school community a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Katie Pierce Chair



**Save the date.....** On the **25<sup>th</sup> June 2023** we will be welcoming the Bishop of Birkenhead, Julie to our service at 9.30am. It is a special day when we remember St Peter, the Patron Saint that our School and Church is named after. It is a bit like the church's birthday and we celebrate this occasion. We call it a Patronal Festival. We will be holding a service at 9.30am followed by Bacon Baps (hopefully in the beautiful sunshine in the open air).

**Adam Friend** Vicar of Tarvin & Duddon / Vice Chair)

Tarvin Parish Church is a foodbank HUB. We are a place where food can be donated and will go through the West Cheshire Foodbank charity and be distributed to those who need it.

We are also able to issue vouchers to those who need food, please do get in touch by sending an email to

[tarvin@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:tarvin@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk) or phone or text 07368335146.

We also are able to deliver a box for a voucher. Our area covers up to Tarporley, and includes, Kelsall, Ashton, Barrow, Guilden Sutton and Christleton.

I am a parent governor and local resident, having moved to the area in 2019. My professional background is in children and families social work and I have a number of years experience in both child protection and looked after children teams. I currently work for a local primary school in a safeguarding/family support role and look forward to bringing my experience and knowledge of safeguarding and the care system to the Board of Governors.

*Becky Butcher*  
*Parent Governor*

**PLEASE DO NOT GO WITHOUT FOOD.**



## Teaching & Learning Committee

This term has been extremely busy in all areas of the curriculum. In September, we introduced our new phonics scheme, Ready Steady Phonics. All staff received training on our INSET day, ensuring that Early Years (Treetops) and Key Stage One (Class One) were ready to implement the scheme as soon as the children started back. As a staff, we have been impressed with the children's progress and their enthusiasm to learn. Ready Steady Phonics provides resources for reading, spelling and handwriting and children have been actively engaged and illustrated pleasing results in all areas.

Maths has also seen lots of change, particularly with the whole school adopting the White Rose Scheme and mastery approach. Mrs Tench and I have joined a local Maths Hub, where we have had the opportunity to learn from maths specialists and bring new initiatives back to school. So far, we have introduced journals into our maths lessons, which allow children to illustrate their maths knowledge in a variety of ways, helping them with their reasoning and problem solving skills. The specialist also visits us in school, supporting staff with planning and delivery of the curriculum and preparation for Ofsted. We are aiming to increase oracy in maths, make the use of our working walls more consistent and develop how we use manipulatives.

**Claire Entwistle**



## ELSA and Nurture Groups

I have been a teaching assistant at Duddon St Peter's for fifteen years now, but for the last few years I have also worked as an ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

There will always be children in schools facing life challenges that can detract from their ability to focus on their learning and some children will need support to increase their emotional literacy. In the past few years, this number has been increasing, due to a variety of social pressures.

I have been trained as an ELSA in how to support children and continue to be supported by educational psychologists. We recognise that children learn better and are happier if their emotional needs are addressed.

I am allocated time each week to deliver interventions, either on a 1-1 basis or with small groups of children. Not all schools deliver emotional support and I feel we are very lucky to have this facility, although it is becoming busier and busier!

In ELSA sessions the aim is to provide support on many emotional needs including ; Anxiety, Self esteem, Recognising emotions, Social skills, Anger management, Friendship skills, Loss and bereavement.

ELSA is not there to fix problems but to provide support in a respectful, nurturing, child friendly space where children can talk honestly and share their feelings and worries.

*Lesley Garnham, Teaching Assistant & ELSA support / Staff Governor*



**SAFEGUARDING:** Safeguarding is an important responsibility of the Governing Body. It includes ensuring that children are kept safe in school and around its environment, checking that relevant risk assessments are completed for all trips and residential visits and also for monitoring mental health.

Ofsted visits always have a safeguarding focus in any inspection and will rigorously question whether all staff and governors have received safeguarding training and that appropriate and up to date DBS checks are being maintained.

This term, we have set up and conducted a safeguarding audit, that will now be checked on an annual basis, and which details all actions in the different areas of safeguarding.

The school's Safeguarding Lead is Paul Hudson and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Claire Entwistle. If you have any concerns, you are able to contact them or myself to discuss them.

*Liz Smith      Safeguarding Governor      l.smith@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk*

**'Be  
the  
best  
you  
can  
be'**

I have returned to school this term to continue in my tutoring role with various children, mainly the younger ones but three older ones as well. With the older ones I am concentrating on Literacy skills, extending and improving sentence construction, developing vocabulary sequencing of ideas to give their writing interest and flow. They are very responsive and though we only have a short time for our one - to - one sessions, the results are pleasing. With the younger children, I have helped with comprehension, (completing answers to questions looking at the words in the question) numeracy, science (revising and learning vocabulary) and reading skills.

As always it is rewarding and fun. I have also taken on the role of overseer with the School Council. We haven't met yet but Paul has told me they are eager and keen! I am aiming to continue these contacts with the children for the full academic year.

*Rev. Barbara King      Foundation Governor*

