

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

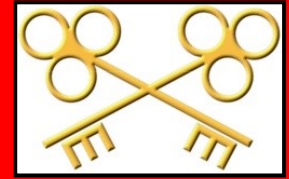
Parent Governors:
Rebecca Butcher

Foundation Governor
Steve Latham

LA Governor:
Vacant

Co-opted Governors:
Claire Entwistle
Liz Smith

December 2024



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

It feels like yesterday that school was returning from the summer holiday and now we are already at the end of term! All members of the school community have been very busy this term and you can find out more about what the Governing Body have been doing in the rest of this newsletter.

There will be changes coming in 2025, with new proposals from the Government to be embedded into school and this will require more hard work from our dedicated staff. We will support and continue our oversight work to ensure we do all we can to adapt to changes. We also have the benefit of our collaboration with Barrow School, which will help staff share ideas and support each other.

The Governors would like to say thank you to all the staff for their continuing hard and dedicated work to support your children. Thank you also to you the parents and carers for your continued support of the school. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Governing Body, to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Katie Pierce
Chair of Governors





Over the last year there have been many new developments put into place in order to address changes in the curriculum. As well as continuing to focus on Literacy and Maths to drive standards even further, subject teams have been working hard to make improvements in the Foundation subjects, such as History, Geography, Music, Art etc.

The changes have involved a great deal of hard work from all staff; new schemes of work have been put into place, new assessment systems have been established to check on children's learning and progress and the planning and delivery of lessons have been made more consistent and effective.

The Teaching and Learning Committee has discussed these changes with relevant staff and has continued to monitor progress. Writing and Maths have been identified as areas that need further focus in this year's School Development Plan and termly reports will be given to the Committee to evaluate the work being carried out.

The Governing Body is aware of how much commitment and effort all staff have contributed to the changes and would like to formally thank them for all their hard work through this year. Not only have they shown such determination to improve the delivery of all subjects, but they have also focused on the importance of children enjoying their time in school, learning in creative ways and continuing to value educational trips and experiences which enhance their knowledge outside the classroom. The Christmas productions demonstrated how the children are encouraged to develop the confidence to perform and showcase a whole range of their skills.

Our school is very fortunate to have staff who care so much about the children they teach, and contribute such a lot of their valuable time in order to help them all 'Be the best they can be.'

Liz Smith

Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee



Christmas has become something that fills us with joy and concern each year. We get worried about presents and decorations, we wonder if next year will be a good year or not. There is so much going on, preparations to make that we forget about the story of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. We forget the root of why we do all this, the joy of Christmas the hope given to us within Jesus being born and the opportunity of peace embedded in the birth of God's son. I ask you simply to enjoy all of it. Try not to worry too much, what will be will be, and as long as we look out for each other then we can live the message of Christmas. So bring Hope, Love and Peace to all those whom you see over the coming weeks. Even if you are somewhere you would rather not be with people, sometimes family who challenge your patience, who you would rather not see. Hold on to the faith that Jesus came for you, to bring hope, love and peace in the world, into your life.

Come and join us for one of our services:

Sunday 15th December at 9.30am Carols and Communion at Duddon Church

Sunday 22nd December at 10.45am Nativity and 6.30pm Carol Service at Tarvin Church.

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve Christingle service at 4.30pm

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Tarvin Church.

Christmas Day 8am and 10am services at Tarvin Church and 9am at Duddon Church.

Rev. Adam Friend

Vice-Chair

SAFEGUARDING:

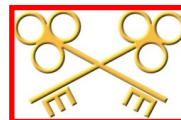
Our annual safeguarding audit was completed this term. This continues to check that staff and governors have been vetted and trained in safeguarding procedures.

Our PCSO has visited the school this term to talk about e-safety, to staff and to children.

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

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

ELSA My role as an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is to support the emotional wellbeing of pupils. I am trained by a team of educational psychologists and receive ongoing group supervision. During ELSA sessions I work on a 1:1 basis or in small groups to deliver bespoke interventions to develop children's emotional literacy; positive mental health; social skills; emotional wellbeing. I also offer support in loss and bereavement. If you have any concerns regarding your child's mental health and wellbeing, please feel free to contact me in school.
Lesley Garnham Staff governor



Mental Health & Wellbeing We are pleased that the school has now been using My Happy Mind for 3 months and has completed the first unit on learning about the brain. All the children have enjoyed meeting the characters and singing the Happy Mind song. All classes have been actively using Happy Breathing and journaling. It is fantastic that we now have 43 families using the app. Thank you for all your support which helps to consolidate what the children have been learning.

As this autumn term draws to an end, we celebrate all that the children have discovered and learnt through all their curriculum areas. Hopefully, they have shared some of their newfound knowledge and skills with you. In addition to this, we value the wider curriculum we have explored here in school. Over the last few weeks, children have developed their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of empathy, respect and diversity through supporting many charities and causes. We have joined together and worn yellow for Mental Health Day, odd socks for Anti Bullying Day, and something spotty for Comic Relief and Expressed Our Elves for our own PTA. As I write, children and staff are running around in the cold, dressed as Elves for St Luke's Hospice. We thank you so much for your support, for contributions of money, prizes, costumes and most importantly, time and effort. We do not take your generosity for granted, particularly at this present time.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Claire Entwistle Co-opted governor