

Governor Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021



Aspiring to inspire others towards excellence, developing as individuals together in a distinctively Christian environment.

“For the body is not one member, but many.”

1 Corinthians, 12:14

Dear Parents and carers,

We hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well.

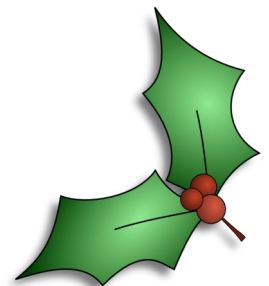
We are approaching the end of what has been another busy term but, despite the uncertainty we are now facing heading into the Christmas break, a term that has seen some return to more familiar school life for the children. They have again been able to mix more widely within school, enjoying Collective Worship and lunchtimes in the hall as well as the re-introduction of clubs and activities. Parents and carers were invited into school so children could proudly share their work and achievements earlier in the term and the younger children were able to share the excitement and joy of their Nativity with some parents just a couple of weeks ago.

Along with the Christmas jumper and dinner day, Panto and other exciting festive activities taking place, there has been a real sense of festive fun accompanying the learning taking place in school.

Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Maycock and school staff for everything they have done, not just during the last few weeks, but throughout this term, working hard to ensure our children enjoy school and continue to make good progress with their learning.

We would also like to thank you, parents and carers, for your continued support of the school and of course thank you to the children for working hard and supporting each other.

We wish everyone—staff, parents, carers and children— a very safe and a very Happy Christmas and look forward to whatever the New Year brings for our school.



Welcome Ash class

Governors would like to take this opportunity to welcome the parents and carers of children in Ash class. It's wonderful to hear how well the children have settled into school life and we really hope you are all enjoying being part of the Little Waltham School community.

Governor monitoring

Governors are still unable to come into school but continue to monitor virtually as much as we can, including termly committee meetings for:

- Teaching, Learning and Achievement
- Resources
- RE and Worship

New to the termly newsletter, governors would like to share information from governor committees with parents and carers to keep you up to date with the monitoring taking place.

Teaching, Learning and Achievement

When we met this term, children had been back in school for four weeks, during which time the focus had been on settling into a more normal start to the school year following a year of disrupted learning .

Governors heard updates from, and were able to put questions to, the English, maths and RE subject leads about children's progress in these core subjects.

Governors noted that staff had been assessing where children were at, identifying gaps and putting appropriate strategies in place to support the children's learning for the coming year.

Subject leads gave positive reports, not only about the overall achievements of the children, but about how well they had adjusted to being back in school and were responding to their learning.

Governors heard how there is a high profile of reading within school and particularly of nurturing a genuine love of reading with regular opportunities for children to develop their independent reading as well as teachers being encouraged to read to the children too —at least weekly and daily where they can. There has also been a big focus on writing across the school, with younger children building their stamina for writing and older children expanding and developing their writing skills.

In RE, all the children continue to have the opportunity to reflect on The Big Question, in the same way they did under Covid restrictions, which was one of the things that worked well and the school has decided to keep as it gives everyone the opportunity to reflect.

Each class also has the school's 'vision' displayed and the children are encouraged to look for examples of the vision being lived out each day. This is acknowledged and praised by staff.

Following on from the success of both the Christmas and Easter focus days, the school will also now be celebrating Hanukkah and Diwali.

Governing Body updates

Our Chair of Governors has been successful in recruiting a number of new governors to the Governing Body. They are:

- Liz Hannam—Foundation PCC
- Emmanuel Aluko— Foundation PCC
- Cathy Monaghan—Local Authority
- Matt Sisto—Parent Governor

Do look out for governor updates as we are planning to introduce each of our new governors over coming newsletters.

Liz Hannam—Foundation PCC

I am Liz, mum to two young girls, Leah aged 3 and Faith who is 19 months. I am married to Phil who is the Senior Pastor of Life Church Chelmsford. Life is very busy for us all, but family time is really precious, and we love spending time together in local parks, on scooter rides and going swimming. We also love regular trips to Colchester Zoo!

I am a committed Christian and first came to faith when I was just seven years old. I have been involved in Children's ministry for over 30 years and am responsible for all the Children's Work within our Church. This has included filming a 30 minute You Tube video every week throughout lockdown to ensure our children continue to have the opportunity to engage with questions of faith and develop their spiritual education. Our services are now back in person and it has been really lovely to see the impact that the online provision has had – much like the impact online learning has had within the School.



I also work four days a week as an Economic Development Manager at the London Borough of Redbridge and am responsible for a service that supports local residents back into employment. I hope that my range of professional and church based experience will put me in good stead in my role as a Foundation Governor and I am wholly committed to supporting the school in being the best it can and to achieve all it can for each of our children. I look forward to meeting many of you once restrictions allow and especially getting the opportunity to see the children within the school environment.

A message from the Chair of Governors



Having completed almost 12 years as a Foundation governor, I have decided to stand down as Chair of Governors at the end of this year and retire fully as a governor in February when my latest four year appointment term comes to an end. Over my seven years as Chair, I have seen pupil numbers grow from 135 to more than 200 as the school has developed into a sustainable one class entry format. Being a school governor has proved immensely worthwhile and it has been a honour to work with such a dedicated and hard working team of staff and governors. I know that I shall miss being part of the School's continued development.

I am pleased to advise you that at its meeting in November, Diane Regan and Cathy Monaghan were unanimously appointed by the Governing Body as Co-Chairs from 1st January 2022. Diane is an experienced Foundation governor, as well as a parent, whilst Cathy, is our Local Authority governor. Together, they offer a variety of skills and experience and form a great team for leading the governing body going forward.

As you are aware, Mrs Maycock, our Headteacher, has announced her intention to retire at the end of the Summer term 2022. Governors have already published an advert for her successor and hope to be able to announce the new appointment before the Spring half-term.

So, whilst facing a period of change in 2022, the School can look forward with confidence in the knowledge that it is blessed with a talented and dedicated team of teachers and other staff, supported by a strong and capable team of governors.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and health and happiness throughout the coming year.

Jon Tredwell

Thank you

Jon, on behalf of all governors, staff, parents and children, we would like to thank you for your tireless commitment to the school during the past 12 years as Chair of Governors. We are sorry that your final few months have been and will be under the circumstances brought about by Covid, especially as we know how much you have enjoyed being an active part of the school community, spending time in school, supporting staff and working with the children.

You have well and truly earned the time that stepping down from Chair will hopefully bring you and we hope that you are able to enjoy even more time with your family.