



Governors' Newsletter

Winter 2020

becoming reflective, independent and aspirational learners for life

Dear Amberley Families,

I am writing to you as we draw to the end of a year we'll all be glad to see the back of. It has definitely been a time to be grateful for what we have and I would like to start by thanking Miss Cale and her dedicated team for all their hard work over the past twelve months. Throughout the first lockdown they went above and beyond in their care for the children who had to go to school, whilst keeping in touch with all those home learning. When the call came to open the school up, it was their determination that meant that every child got the opportunity to return to school for a period of time. This is a feat that was only achieved in a small percentage of primary schools across the country. The fact that so far we have made it to December without isolating any classes is a testament to the staff adherence to the guidelines, along with help from the parents and probably a bit of good fortune. I would like to wish all the staff a well-deserved break over Christmas.

We have said goodbye to two Governors this term with Georgina King and Cliff Hodgson stepping down. I would like to thank them both for the time and effort that they have given to the school. Cliff has been the Local Authority Governor for the last 10 years. His connection to Amberley came through both his grandchildren attending, and his knowledge of health and safety, computing and the school building has been invaluable over the years. He will be very much missed but has agreed to continue as an Associate Member. I am however pleased to report that Matt Anderson has agreed to step into the Local Authority role. This does mean we have a few spaces on the Governing Board and we would welcome any interest from parents. I would emphasise that you don't need to have been a parent at the school for a number of years to join. We are very keen for Dexter or Hereford parents to get involved, the earlier you do the more input you can have on the school and your children's time at Amberley.

During the year the Governors have been focused on supporting Miss Cale and her team to cope with everything that has been thrown at us. However, there has been some other activity. Miss Rudge became the first Amberley teacher to be appointed via Zoom and it is great to see her settle in so well. The plans for the Eco pod have continued and we hope to see installation completed in January. Getting this approved and funded by the Diocese has only been possible with the continuing support of the PTA who have once again backed a project which will benefit all the children at the school for many years.

It just leaves me now, on behalf of the Governing Body, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Hopefully, with the vaccine role out just beginning, at some point next year we can all return to normal Amberley School life.

James Holmes