



BECOMING REFLECTIVE, INDEPENDENT & ASPIRATIONAL LEARNERS FOR LIFE

Governors' Newsletter

Winter 2019

Dear Amberley Families,

Somehow we have already reached Christmas after a long busy Autumn term. I know the children are very excited and it was great to see KS1 thoroughly enjoy the chance to show off their acting skills in the Nativity play, ably supported by some fantastic singing by KS2.

The Governing Body has seen some new faces this term with Jo Wood, Matt Anderson and George King all joining in September as Foundation Governors and Jess Mitchell recently as the new Parent Governor. We do though say goodbye to David Learmont who is stepping down and thank him for his contribution over the last few years, especially keeping a close eye on the accounts.

As ever it is a good time to thank Miss Cale and her staff for all the hard work they put in to make Amberley the school it is today. Their extra effort is really making the school a happy vibrant place for our children to learn in. We know this as governors through our regular monitoring visits to classes and learning walks through the school. We also recently reviewed the very positive feedback from the parent's questionnaire. This showed just how much you appreciate what is going on at Amberley and we do greatly value your views.

It was fantastic this term to see written proof of Amberley children fulfilling their potential, as evidenced by the excellent SATS results. The results show that the children are really performing well and responding to the challenges set for them.

Following on from the huge clearing operation in the "planny" over the summer the school has pushed on with ideas to renovate it. With the continued support and commitment of the PTA the Diocese are very keen to back our plans and we hope to have some more news on this in the New Year.

The perennial issue of road safety on Culver Hill has been brought to the schools attention again. We have tried several times in the past through local councils and MPs to come up with a solution to improve the safety. An advert for a lollipop attendant has gone out and with the new Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan having a focus on traffic measures across the common we have contacted the Parish Council to ask their help and support to look at what we can do.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

James Holmes

Chair of Governors



BECOMING REFLECTIVE, INDEPENDENT & ASPIRATIONAL LEARNERS FOR LIFE

Governor Profiles



Matt Anderson

Committee: Finance and Resources

I spent the first year of my life living in Lightpill Stroud and the following 30 plus years in Gloucester, so I suppose you could say that I have come home. My first 17 years of employment was with an Architects Practice in Gloucester. I then decided to change direction and work for a property developer for the next 5 years, during this time we moved to Nailsworth. My next venture was to start my own architectural practice, Anderson Architecture in 2012.

I enjoy playing table tennis in the local Stroud League, lane swimming at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and practising Yoga on a regular basis. These interests allow me to keep up with two energetic boys!

During our child's first two years at Amberley I have become increasingly interested in how the school is achieving such fantastic results and providing such a nurturing environment for our children. When the opportunity arose to become a Governor, I decided that this was my chance to get involved.

I joined as a Foundation Governor in September this year and attended my first Governors meeting, wondering exactly what would be expected of me. I was instantly put at ease by a group of kind, friendly and supportive people with a common interest, which of course is the development and well-being of the children at Amberley!

I have recently been allocated the role of Governor for Design Technology & Outdoor Learning, which will be in focus in the New Year, so I look forward to supporting Miss Holden and Mr Oakey in their roles as the leaders on these subjects.



BECOMING REFLECTIVE, INDEPENDENT & ASPIRATIONAL LEARNERS FOR LIFE



Jo Wood – Foundation Governor

Committee: Performance and Standards

Having joined the Governing Body here at Amberley back in October, I am thrilled to be a part of the team.

I have been a Primary School teacher for over 16 years, most of which has been in the Stroud / Gloucester area. Within one of my teaching roles in Stroud, I was the teacher Governor for many years representing the staff within the Governing Board and supporting the Head Teacher. I know the importance of a strong team, aspirational leadership and an approach that puts children at the heart of all that happens at school. With this in mind, it is an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to bring my experience to Amberley and to work with the rest of the group continuing the important role of working with Miss Cale and her wonderful team.

John and I moved to Amberley nearly 10 years ago from Cheltenham, looking for a more rural and community-centred environment and we certainly found it! Our son Albert is currently in year 2, thoroughly enjoying his Amberley experience. I also help in school regularly on Tuesday afternoons in Hereford class, supporting maths or reading; something which I love doing.

Now fully invested in the Governor role, I am part of the committee that concentrates on Performance and Standards across the school. Alongside this, I am the lead Governor for Safeguarding, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and also for the curriculum subject area of History. In order for the school to continue to move forward, an essential role of a Governor is to both support and challenge; showing professional curiosity in all that happens. I really look forward to getting stuck in!

Personally, I also think that the Governors can be a fantastic way for parents to communicate with school. As I work part time, I will normally be at school for drop offs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and also picking up on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please grab me for a chat if there is anything that you would like to talk about!

Amberley Parochial School, Amberley, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 5JG
Tel: 01453 873349 Email: admin@amberley.gloucs.sch.uk Web: www.amberleyschool.co.uk
Head teacher: Miss S Cale