

Ditchheat Primary

Dear parents and carers,

On behalf of the governors, I would like to wish you a very warm welcome back to school.

School 'closed' its doors for the first lockdown almost a year ago – Monday 23rd March 2020 – and whilst a number of pupils have benefitted from attending school during the lockdowns, home learning stretched into every home. Results were evident via Tapestry and Google Classroom with staff being creative and supportive, and managing to provide all our children with ideas and work to challenge and encourage whilst getting to grips with managing their own lives. None of this has been easy but we are back.

It may not be a return to 'quite how it used to be' but it will be the first steps to getting back into school, an opportunity for our children to meet up, re-establish relationships, build resilience and to enjoy all that school has to offer - '*Inspiring a Love of Learning for Life*'.

The first few weeks back to school will be focusing on the most important skills for our children, making sure they are happy and enjoying school once more. There are some wonderful opportunities to explore the creative curriculum and these will go some way to restoring routines and patterns of learning together.

And for you, parents and carers, a time for you to look back and take stock of what you have done to support your children in their learning. I think I can say on your behalf that you now know how important teachers and schools are; and you too will be getting back to 'normal'.

Thank goodness spring is on the way and with it the hope that, along with the vaccination programme, school can continue with uninterrupted learning.

The whole school staff have been remarkable in bearing the brunt of the additional workload and continuing to adapt to a changing landscape of technology platforms. Always positive and rising to every challenge that Covid 19 has presented – so on behalf of the governors I would formally like to thank the team.

Enjoy returning to school – keep safe and keep well

Kate Webber
Chair of Governors



Governor meeting dates

5th March 2021

HTPR Committee Meeting

11th March 2021

Finance Committee Meeting

23rd March 2021

Board Meeting

Further meetings to be arranged in due course

How to contact us

Governor photos can be found in the school entrance, we are all approachable.

If you would like to contact us about something specific, please email Kate (chair) on kwebber@educ.somerset.gov.uk

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Shepton Mallet
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<http://ditchheatprimary.co.uk/>

Who we are

Kate Webber	(Co Opted Governor – Chair)
Kate Rowe	(Parent Governor – Vice Chair)
Victoria Withers	(Headteacher)
Rose Boyce	(Staff Governor)
Arthur Llewellyn	(Local Authority Governor)
Andrew Nicholls	(Co Opted Governor)
Paul Senior	(Co Opted Governor)
Amanda Davis	(Co Opted Governor)
Jo Crook	(Associate Member)
Kate Knowles	(Clerk to the Governors)
Simon Lilley	(Parent Governor)
Vacancy	(Co Opted Governor)
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The committees

The **Finance & Personnel Committee** has responsibility for finance, personnel & premises. The committee is chaired by Arthur Llewellyn; other members being Kate Rowe, Kate Webber, Paul Senior & Amanda Davis.

The **Head Teacher Performance Review (HTPR) & Teacher Appraisal Committee** is responsible for recruitment and performance management of the head teacher. The committee is chaired by Kate Webber; other members being Andrew Nicholls & Paul Senior.

Other responsibilities

Link governor responsibilities are detailed below:

Area	Lead	Vice
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Kate Webber	
Health & Safety	Andrew Nicholls	Paul Senior
Early Years Foundation Stage	Kate Rowe	Kate Webber
Governance Safeguarding Lead	Paul Senior	Kate Webber
Website	Simon Lilley	Amanda Davis
Data Protection	Andrew Nicholls	Simon Lilley
Governor Skills	Rose Boyce	Kate Rowe
Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)	Kate Rowe	Arthur Llewellyn
Pupil Premium Champion	Kate Rowe	

Strategic priorities

We'll be using the School Development Plan to monitor the school's priorities, for 2020-2021 these are:

1 – Curriculum

We will continue to strive to provide inspiring experiences to motivate our children. To teach them to be respectful, responsible, resilient and to embrace differences. We will prepare them to be confident and independent life-long learners.

2 – Standards

We will have high expectations of our children and encourage them to develop a belief in their abilities. We will continue to work closely with the community to raise aspirations.

3 – Leadership & Management

We will care for, encourage and support our children in a warm, inclusive and vibrant environment where they are safe to make mistakes.

4 – Structures & Systems

We will provide a rich and varied curriculum which will provide experiences that inspire, enthuse and motivate our children.