

Ditchheat Primary

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm and special welcome to our new reception children and their families.

'Change is inevitable and the disruption it causes often brings both inconvenience and opportunity' Robert Scoble

What a year - full of challenges and changes. Who could have predicted the effect that COVID would have on our school community? Changes were made to the way we learnt and communicated with each other - but we adapted and changed and managed and here we are at the beginning of another school year.

I wrote to you on 28th April about Vic Withers moving on and then again on 14th May to inform you that Michelle Heap would be our interim headteacher in September and will be with us until Easter. The board of governors would like to extend our thanks to her for the work she has done in preparation for keeping our school in the good shape that Mrs Withers left us in.

We also welcome a new Co-opted Governor, Janet James. Janet has taught for 30 years and lives in the village and will no doubt bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board.

FoDS continue to work tirelessly to raise funds to benefit all children in school. Their latest initiative will see a complete refurbishment of the toilets, making a 'comfort break' a pleasure.

Our previous Year 6 have 'moved on' and will experience a huge change as they leave the familiar surroundings of our school to new and different settings.

Let us hope that we have learnt to take the experience of this last year and its challenges as an opportunity to manage changes that will surely come our way.

'Change the way you look at things and the things you look at will change' Wayne W Dyer

So, we must keep our eyes on the horizon and be prepared. We will keep you up to date of any changes and future developments, but for now enjoy the normality of being back in a routine.

Kate Webber
Chair of Governors



Governor meeting dates

7th September 2021

Board Meeting

11th October 2021

HTPR Committee Meeting

24th November 2021

Board Meeting

9th February 2021

Board Meeting

30th March 2021

Board Meeting

18th May 2021

Board Meeting

13th July 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

Who we are

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

The committees

The **Finance & Personnel Committee** has responsibility for finance, personnel & premises. The committee is chaired by Arthur Llewellyn; other members being Andrew Nicholls, Paul Senior, Janet James & Michelle Heap.

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)	K Webber	
Health & Safety	A Nicholls	P Senior
Early Years Foundation Stage		K Webber
Governance Safeguarding Lead	P Senior	K Webber
Website	S Lilley	A Davis
Data Protection	A Nicholls	S Lilley
Governor Skills	R Boyce	
Online Safety	S Lilley	A Nicholls
Looked After/Previously Looked After	J James	
Pupil Premium Champion	J James	
Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)		A Llewellyn
Wellbeing	K Webber	

Strategic priorities

We'll be using the School Strategic Plan to monitor the school's priorities, for 2021-2022 these are:

Priority 1

Sustaining the very good quality of teaching and learning at Ditcheat Primary School ensuring challenging achievement and progress target are met

Priority 2

To develop our curriculum to ensure there is a clear progression through all subjects and learning experiences, better opportunities for deeper knowledge and understanding and robust assessment in all subjects

Priority 3

To work towards achieving the Artsmark through a programme of exciting enrichment activities including work with Carymoor Environmental Centre and Exeter University