

Governor Newsletter—Summer 2021

Update from Chair of Governors

The start of the Spring term found us once again in a lockdown with only partial opening for schools and many pupils accessing their learning from home. At Amblecote much had been learned from the earlier lockdown and so plans had already been prepared in readiness for the delivery of our Remote Learning offer from the beginning of term. This new way of working has required innovation and creativity to deliver the curriculum and governors are exceptionally grateful to all our staff who have continued to work tirelessly to ensure the same quality of education and support for all our pupils wherever they were learning from.

Governors have continued to fulfil their responsibilities to provide support and challenge to the school remotely and, like everyone else, have had to adapt ways of working. During the last half term it has been uplifting to once again hear excited voices ringing out through the school and playground as pupils have returned to school. Governors and staff are delighted that the heart of our school community is back.

Since school has fully reopened, staff and governors have been concentrating again on the Recovery, Development and Improvement Plan; focusing on our catch-up programme to get pupils back on track with their learning and drive forward with our enriching curriculum opportunities.

In the following pages, we have some updates for you on what we have been doing as a Governing board this year, some “Goodbyes” and most importantly the opportunity to say “Thank you”.

We would finally like to extend our gratitude to everyone who has pulled together to support the school over the last year. In particular, we have seen many examples of staff showing a level of dedication and commitment that embodies all the values of Amblecote Primary school. We would especially like to thank Mrs. Cook and the members of SLT for their leadership, determination and endless support during these exceptional times as well as our parents and the children themselves. You have all been amazing under such unprecedented times.

On behalf of all the Governors , thank you.

Claire Roberts

Chair of Governors

Goodbyes

As many of you may be aware June Lewis, who has served as a governor at Amblecote for over 20 years, has decided now is the time to enjoy her retirement fully. Here are a few words from June...

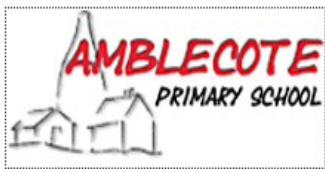
When I was asked by Dudley in 1997 if I would become a Governor at Amblecote Primary School I never dreamed that I would still be serving there twenty four years later. However Amblecote is a school that immediately impresses you with its warmth and friendliness and you become part of the family. During my time I have worked with four different Headteachers including the recently appointed one, and have always tried to help them to recruit the best teachers, buy the best equipment, and do all that I could to provide the education our children deserved. I have met so many wonderful children through the years, and watched with pride some of the performances they have invited me to attend. I have had many conversations with parents, sometimes friendly and complimentary and occasionally challenging but always respectful. I leave knowing the school is in safe hands and will have many successes in the future. A part of me will always belong to Amblecote School and I will treasure my memories of my time there.



Thank you to June, for your years of Service, you will be greatly missed.

We also have to say Goodbye to two other Governors, Stella Biggs and Sharon Hyde. Both have served as Governors at Amblecote for many years, and we would also like to take this opportunity to thank them for their long and dedicated service to Amblecote.





Report from Full Governing Body

In the spring and summer term Full Governing Body meetings the governors have raised standards by:

- undertaking a thorough evaluation, with all stakeholders, of the Remote Learning Offer provided during partial opening of schools, and determining that Amblecote provided an excellent quality of learning for all pupils
- ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils, staff and the headteacher is given the highest priority
- examining achievement and progress data, and considering how catch-up funding is being spent to make sure gaps in learning are being addressed
- revising and updating the Risk Assessment for the Summer Term in light of full opening in March
- looking ahead at pupil numbers and classroom sizes for the next academic year to ensure the effective deployment of learning resources
- discussing the format of parent consultations and considering the best approaches to benefit all stakeholders
- reviewing policies to ensure school operates to the highest standards
- considering governor vacancies, future recruitment and succession planning so that the governing body continues to have all the skills required to fulfil its functions

Thank you

There are so many people that we need to thank for all their work over the last year at Amblecote. Our PTA as ever, has been amazing raising funds under such difficult circumstances for the benefit of our pupils. Your hard work and time is very much appreciated, not just by the Governing board, but everyone associated with Amblecote.

The wonderful staff, we are so privileged to have you all. You have worked tirelessly this last year (and always) to ensure the very best for our children. Thank you.

And finally (and most importantly) our children and families. Thank you for making Amblecote the school that we are all so proud of. You have all been exceptional this year, and we very much look forward to seeing you in September.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and see you in September!

AT AMBLECOTE WE ACHIEVE BECAUSE IN OUR PUPILS WE BELIEVE!