

LLANGATTOCK CHURCH IN WALES VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER-Autumn 2022

THE GOVERNORS



Who's Who (L to R): Top Row: Jim Retallick(Chair), Nell Cawley (Vice-Chair),

Middle Row: Kathryn Marshall (Headteacher), Jo Jones (Teacher Governor), Val Jones, Ann Williams, Tom Close (Parent Governor)

Bottom Row: Rev. Jeremy Bevan, Karen Jones, George Smith, Cllr Jackie Charlton, Richard Thomas and Kirsty Jones (Staff Governor).

This term the Governing Body has:

- Reviewed and update policies
- Reviewed last year's school priority targets and set new ones
- Completed the headteacher's performance management
- Held a Governors' Drop-in Session
- Completed monitoring activities in line with the School Development Priorities
- Completed training on their role as Governors within the Estyn framework
- Written an annual report and held the AGM
- Responded to several consultations including the Crickhowell Catchment Review
- Completed the annual safeguarding review for Powys
- Collated an advert to replace Kathryn Marshall as Headteacher

Next term we will be:

- Interviewing for a new Headteacher
- Visiting school to talk with learners
- Continue to develop our understanding of the Curriculum for Wales
- Reviewing Policies, including behaviour and admissions
- Review provision in preparation for September 2023

Nadolig Llawen
a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Changes

We are delighted to welcome Tom Close as our new Parent Governor. Tom has three children in Llangattock School and is very much looking forward to developing his role within the Governing Body. We would also like to express our thanks to Karen Jones for her hard work and commitment as Chair. Karen will remain as a governor but will be replaced by Jim Retallick, who is the new Chair. Thank you also to Jill Pritchard for her work as support staff governor. Jill is now standing down and will be replaced by Kirsty Jones.

Here, as has become tradition in recent years, is the Dickensian New Year's message from our former Chair of Governors, George Smith. Please enjoy!

Excerpt: The Darkling Thrush by Thomas Hardy

*I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted night
Had sought their household fires.*

While it is not exactly a Christmas themed poem, 'The Darkling Thrush' is a seasonally themed one.

Hardy stood at the coppice gate on the eve of a new century, lamenting what had been lost in the past 100 years or so and he was daunted by what the new century might bring.

Through his widespread use of metaphor and rich descriptive language and a host of other clever literary bits and bobs he describes a bleak outlook.

But there is hope in the form of the plucky darkling thrush, who despite his stark prospects manages to convey a reassuring sentiment of hope.

Please read the poem in full because Hardy expresses this far better than I ever could.

Llangattock School stands on the eve of a new era.

The Catchment Review Consultation has been completed, but still there are questions about the future and structure of education in our area. In amongst this, we really recognise the value of our School and its importance in the community. Continuity in this age of rapid change is the cornerstone to stability.

Our School has weathered the past years of covid and it is quite a milestone that this year all the Christmas play performances and events have been back to normal. Well done to the pupils and staff. Tradition has been re-established.

Lastly Kathryn Marshall is leaving. This surely would have put Hardy in a right old tail spin. Anything he wrote on this subject would have been banned from Instagram due to epidemics of poetry induced despair. Kathryn Marshall has been a brilliant head, we congratulate her and wish her well.

I shall speak the part of the frail thrush and reassure you that the ancient and unfathomable mechanisms of headteacher appointments are already turning, the pawls are clicking and bearings are being lathered in goose fat. Superior legal and academic minds, minds immeasurably superior to ours are compiling a Head Teachers Job Description designed to capture the attention of the keenest pedagogical intellects of our age. Rest assured that our Llangattock Church in Wales School has a secure future.

Nadolig Llawen, from George Smith and the Governors.

The Darkling Thrush

[Thomas Hardy](#) - 1840-1928

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-gray,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunk hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.