

LLANGATTOCK CHURCH IN WALES VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER-Spring 2023

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 (Foundation Governor), Ann Williams (Foundation Governor),

Bottom Row: George Smith (Foundation Governor), Tom Close (Foundation Governor), Rev. Jeremy Bevan (Church Link/Foundation Governor), Cllr Jackie Charlton (LA Representative), Richard Thomas (Foundation Governor) and Kirsty Jones (Staff Governor).

This term:

We are delighted to have been able to appoint Mrs Katherine Durbin as headteacher from April. Mrs Durbin has visited the school several times and was amazed and delighted by our wonderful Easter Service and Hat Parade.

Thank you to the Church and Rev Jeremy Bevan for the continued support and guidance for all involved with Llangattock School. We feel very proud of this ever improving and developing link.

Thank you and goodbye to Mrs Karen Jones who has been a very active Governor for many years. Karen recently stepped down as Chair, but has now also decided to step down from the Governing Body. Karen has been a fabulous asset to the School and will be very much missed.

George Smith

Kathryn Marshall: A Validation

In the last Governors' Newsletter the headline feature was the forthcoming departure of our headteacher Kathryn Marshall. It is my great privilege to write a few words in tribute to her.

I am quite sure that my oldest son, who is now in his third year at University was in Year 2 when Kathryn started at Llangattock. She came highly recommended and did not disappoint. As a teacher she has always set very high standards for herself and the children she has taught. A caring and nurturing classroom environment has been

central to her ethos, as has humour. Smiles and laughter have always been in ready supply too. These attributes are life support to a primary school teacher.

It was welcome news when she applied for the post of headteacher 6 years ago. The role of headteacher in any primary school is challenging. In Llangattock we have our own challenges, not least the task of maintaining and improving very high standards. In addition, the school requires not inconsiderable teaching commitment from the head. Kathryn has maintained this commitment in order to help balance the budget and to keep provision elsewhere in the school.

The head of Llangattock school is required to teach, manage staff, plan long term strategies, know each child individually, look after the welfare of everyone and know exactly what is happening everywhere, all of the time. Despite these challenges she has always been able to talk about her family and keep a good work life balance.

Pupils, families and staff have been immensely privileged to have Kathryn at the helm these past years. She is leaving the school in an extremely good condition. On behalf of the Governors of Llangattock School, past and present, I wish her every success in her future career as School Improvement Advisor in Powys.

The Future

Since the imminent departure of Kathryn Marshall was announced, two great and terrible events have occurred which serve to remind us of our insignificance (I am sure we all recall the recent tremor and then of course the unnatural colours of the night sky!!!) However, to those of us who have the gift of understanding such signs rejoiced at the news that Katherine Durbin was to be the new head of our School. We all pledge our support and anticipate a happy and fruitful Headship!

Happy Easter!