



Llangattock School Governors' Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2015

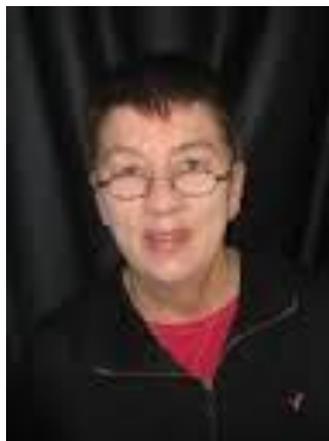
An end of school year newsletter from the Governors

A core of our governors have been hard at work reviewing the Vision and Values we wish to promote in our school. Clair Jones, Gail Jones and Sandra Harris have been hard at work practicing their art as wordsmiths and I hope you will find their contribution interesting.

We have had a really successful year, culminating in amazing National Test results which firmly secure our place as one of the best Primary Schools in all Christendom, well, Powys anyway.

Well done children, families and all the staff at Llangattock School.

It has been my pleasure to work with Rita Waldron and my children and many others have benefitted from her work over the years. She has been a highly valued colleague and children have gained much from her patient, child focused, and intelligent approach to her work. At 20 years' service she is our longest serving staff member. The governors and I thank her for her work and wish her a long and rewarding retirement. The Year 6s too must leave and once again I have known them for what seems like a long time and the governors and I wish them happiness and success in whatever the future brings. I am sure their time at Llangattock School has provided very firm foundations for continued success.



Rita Waldron

Over the past three years Brian Cox has been working really hard on a plan to alter and extend the layout of the year 5 &6 classroom.

Due to his efforts we are very pleased to inform you that financial agreement has been given by the Brecon and Swansea Diocesan Trust to carry out the building alterations.

The new facilities will make be a huge improvement and everyone throughout the school will benefit. Hopefully work should start within a year.

We warmly welcome the Reverend Barry Letson to the Governing Body who has taken over from Kelvin Richards as the church representative.

Barry has already been given a tour of the school by Hayley and has been involved in many school activities.

He is a familiar face to the children.



Many thanks to Gail Jones for organizing the trip to the Hay Book Festival in May.

The school took a group of children to see three children's authors and to experience the excitement of a world-renowned literary festival close to home. The trip was open to those who attend the Book Club. These children have a wide range of reading abilities and they were inspired by the presentations given by the authors and loved the opportunity to have their books autographed in the bookshop.



CLAIR JONES ON VISIONS AND VALUES

Llangattock's new status as a Church in Voluntary Aided (VA) School has meant changes in policy and appearance to reflect a more Christian ethos.

Some of the Governors attended a Diocesan-organised training session focusing on Vision and Values rooted in scripture. Out of this came a new view of how they are reflected and demonstrated throughout the school; by pupils, staff, governors, parents and the wider community.

On the wall in the school hall, for all children to see, is an illustration of a candle depicting the vision of "lighting the way". This is intended to show the children the path to humility, courage, peace and forgiveness and other noble values they can aspire to.

We wanted to talk to the School Council, made up of pupils representing each Year Group, about these words, or "values" and to think about a School Vision statement which highlighted the values felt to be most inspiring and most evident in their school life.

The pupils told the governors that tolerance, and understanding the differences in other pupils (such as behaviour, beliefs and way of life) characterized the school. The School Council also said that values such as respect, consideration, fairness, helpfulness and politeness were also important.

Some of the pupils gave examples of figures they thought embodied these values; including Ghandi, Nelson Mandela and Jesus.

It became obvious that a clear Vision for our School could be encapsulated as follows:

**Sharing our Values,
Understanding each other
Lighting the Way through Learning**

This vision has been shared with the Governing Body. If you have any thoughts about this Vision, and the Values which are either already enacted upon within school, or you would like to see highlighted in school, please contact Clair Jones, Sandra Harris or Gail Jones.

And finally ...

A while ago when I first started teaching, the family of a child in my class gave me an incredible gift, which for reasons that will become clear not many people know about. I am the owner of a fine original Leonardo. Due to its rarity and value I certainly don't have it on display in the house, I occasionally take it out and show it to friends or just look at it and enjoy privately.

Since I came into possession of this rare artefact people might claim that much has changed in teaching and society but we have still got to teach them the same basic skills. I believe the most fundamental of these skills is reading, it should model good spoken and written language and feed imagination.

Please parents keep your children reading over the summer. Consider the radical idea of not taking tablets and screens on holiday and limit the time if you are at home. Let your children have a childhood.

When I do occasionally take my Turtle* out of the cupboard I like to think that were he alive he would find children as literate and they were 20 years ago.

These are my views and not necessarily the views of the Governing Body!

** Leonardo The Ninja Turtle that is... in case you thought it was a valuable painting....*

George Smith, Chair of Governors,