



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Learning - Laughter - Friendship

Interim Headteacher: Lee Mayes
Assistant Headteachers: Natalie Rogers and Nicole Brace
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18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year, and I hope that you and your children have settled into the new year's rhythms. And welcome particularly to parents new to the school, particularly for those whose children are just starting their school journey!

As communicated in our letter at the end of last term, the school had earlier in 2026 been facing leadership challenges that demanded a lot of our Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Brace and Mrs Rogers. As governors we are delighted with the start that Mr Mayes has made as Interim Headteacher in the last two weeks. We are also pleased to have additional support this year under the Cambridgeshire Successful Schools Framework to help the management team to drive rapid improvement by coordinating additional support and monitoring to make sure actions we take have an impact. We believe the foundation is set for a successful year.

We have an opportunity for you as parents to participate in shaping the school's future.

The school's Full Governing Body comprises up to 12 volunteers – part of one of the largest volunteer forces in the country – and two staff who together set the school's direction, hold leaders to account for how children are doing, and oversee use of school resources. Four of those positions are elected from among the parents, and at the start of this school year we have had three positions become vacant. These positions are open to you, as parents and carers, and we would like to encourage you to consider applying.

The commitment required starts with six board meetings a year and six committee meetings – roughly one evening a fortnight in term time – and the reading that goes with them plus around three school visits across the year, and other tasks from time to time as agreed. Governors can claim reasonable out-of-pocket costs, including travel and childcare: nobody should be prevented from governing on grounds of cost.

Governors do not write school policies, run lessons, judge teachers or fundraise. You do not need a background in education, and you do not need to have governed anything before. Training is provided for free. Curiosity and persistence matter more than expertise, although we are looking for applicants who may be able to develop our capabilities in cybersecurity, health and safety and HR.

Our board does not yet reflect the full range of families at Waterbeach, and you may be able to help with that. We would particularly welcome parents and carers of children with SEND, families for whom English is an additional language, and anyone who has read this far and assumed it was not for people like them. If you are unsure, that is a reason to talk to us rather than a reason to stay away! To find out more, please send an email to chair@waterbeach.gov.sch.uk. We are happy to answer questions or have a meeting or conversation to provide further information. You can get the



Our school encourages each child to grow into a happy, confident individual, thriving in a supportive community where each is inspired to learn and discover through a kaleidoscope of opportunities, with space to imagine and to create.



application form from the Governor area on the school website or from the school office.
Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 30 September, and if more than three candidates stand there will be a secret ballot of all parents which will close on Tuesday 6 October. The term of office runs for four years.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Schumann & Lisa Wakley-Davies

Co-Chairs of Governors