

GOVERNORS' SUMMER NEWSLETTER, JULY 2026

A newsletter of two halves this term as Barbara steps down as chair of governors, and Anna and Ayshka take on the role of co-chairs.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish term in exceptional, sustained heat, I want to start by thanking all the staff for their vigilance and patience over the past few weeks, as we probably all battled with feeling rather too warm at times. Sports Day and the Summer Fair were particular highlights, with Sports Day one of the hottest days, I think. Well done to children across the school for listening to instructions and staying safe.

There are some goodbyes, inevitably. Good luck to our Year 6s as they move on to the next phase of their school career – Bobby, Emily and George, we wish you well and hope to see you back at Crosby school when you can visit. We also say goodbye and a huge thank you to Tom Cripps, who leaves the governing board after seven years of very thorough and dedicated service. Abi Ruehorn-Hyde is leaving the role of clerk to the governors but happily remains as Business Manager; thank you for all you've done supporting the work of the governors, Abi. I too am stepping down at the end of term and handing on the chair role to our new co-chairs, Anna Lea and Ayshka Sene, who I think will do a great job. I have hugely enjoyed my time as chair and I shall remain as a governor on the board for the time being.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Barbara Wallis

Dear all,

Anna and I are delighted to take on the role of co-chairs of governors from the end of this week. We owe a huge thank you to Barbara who has been a dedicated and incredibly hard-working chair for the last four years. We include below Duncan Priestley's speech thanking Barbara - George, our vice-chair, read this to Barbara at Summer Fair on 11 July. We think that it perfectly sums up all Barbara has contributed to the school during her time as chair. Thank you Barbara.

I'd like to say a few words in tribute to Barbara, who will be stepping down as Chair of Governors at the end of this school year, though I'm glad to say she'll continue as a governor.

Over recent years, Barbara has been simply brilliant in this role, always with an extraordinary attention to detail and diligence. She has given countless hours of her own time, quietly and voluntarily, to truly understand not just the school, but the community it serves.

One of her greatest achievements has been the way she's brought the whole governing body together — encouraging every governor to contribute, making this a team effort rather than any one person's success. That's typical of her: she is far too humble to want any credit directed solely at her, but the truth is, she has been a key part of this school's success in recent years, and she deserves great credit for it.

On a personal note, Barbara has always been quick to support our staff, and she's supported me personally more times than I can count. I am, and will remain, truly grateful for that.

Barbara leaves a strong legacy — one built not just on her own efforts, but on the team she's brought together, and one we can all continue to build on.

Barbara, thank you — from all of us.

(written by Duncan Priestley)

We are grateful to be working with a brilliant board of governors, and we will be relying on their wealth of expertise and experience as we serve the school together. We ask for your grace and patience as we settle into our new roles. We are grateful to all the school staff who work incredibly hard – special mentions this term for the outstanding Art Exhibition evening, Freda's delicious community lunch and a highly successful sports day. We wish all staff and students a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you in September!

With best wishes,
Anna and Ayshka

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