



Governors Report for parents– May 2016

This report aims to describe for parents the work of the governing body and some of the key decisions it is taking on your behalf. The approved minutes of the meetings are also published on the [school website](#).

Link Governor Subject Report - For each key subject area, the school has a subject lead teacher and link governor attached. At each governors meeting, a subject area is looked at in depth and a report presented – this time it was Foundation stage and Special Educational Needs (SEN). It is also our intention for the governor to do a piece summarising what they found for circulation to parents.

Friends of KVS report - The Friends of Kennet Valley School reported to the governors meeting that they have raised over £2,000 so far this year, which has been / will be used to support:

- The Be the Best You Can Be programme
- STEM sessions during Science week,
- A new PA system with microphones,
- Five additional iPads,
- Updates to the staff room to support DT curriculum (cooking),
- Improvements to the outdoor learning environment
- Year 6 leavers' hooded jumpers

Further details can be found on the [Friends webpage](#).

The Friends group provide invaluable fund raising activities for the school to ensure that we can offer the children additional opportunities that government funding does not always cover. There is a change of committee coming up in the autumn and so we would urge parents if they have time to join this group and get involved.

Annual Governor's award - The teachers will be recommending a number of children for this year's governor award, for outstanding contribution to the school within our spirit and ethos, with presentations made at the end of term.

Mission statement refresh - The school has a mission statement and every few years we refresh it, to make sure that it reflects the ethos and aspirations of the school. The current statement is as follows:

Our School Values

We want all our children to look forward to coming to school and thoroughly enjoy learning while they are here. We strongly believe that the best learning takes place when children are happy, motivated and secure.

Our Mission Statement

Welcoming children from all backgrounds and cultures, we work together, as part of a caring and Christian community, celebrating everyone's needs and differences, to ensure that all our pupils are able to flourish and grow reaching their full potential.

Our School Aim

To offer all our children a challenging, inspiring and balanced curriculum, seeking the highest standards of personal development, embracing Christian understanding of everyone's needs and differences and to nurture a personal responsibility for high standards of learning, behaviour and respect for others.

Teachers and governors are meeting on 17th June to refresh our statement and then publish on our website.

Prevent training for Governors - The government requires all staff and governors in schools in the UK to undertake 'Prevent' training, aimed at understanding extremism and knowing what steps to take. We have all completed this training.

Homework - With regard to homework, the teaching staff will be reviewing our school homework arrangements and reissuing our approach. For some parents the feedback is that there is too much homework, whilst from others there is not enough. Some parents have said that they find the homework corner at Dragon club useful. It is seen as advantageous if parents encourage their children with homework, but at the end of the day it will always be voluntary.

Maintaining good behaviour and discipline - All schools manage issues of behaviour and discipline on a daily basis, nevertheless, given some of the disruptive behaviour in the last 12 months, this remains a key focus for the school and for the governors. The governors have requested and received independent information from the

Wiltshire County Behavioural Support Unit that states 'Kennet Valley staff...engages services as appropriate... and have created a caring environment which...seeks to promote the safety and welfare of all children'. In keeping with this, the Head was able to brief the governing body that the number of incidents had significantly reduced in the last quarter.

Admissions - Although not yet confirmed, we are expecting 13 / 14 new reception children from September. A similar number will be leaving in year 6, leaving us steady at around 100 pupils on roll.

End of day bus arrangements - The Wiltshire council changes to the bus arrangements have required the school to adjust its end of day arrangements. It has taken some time to find arrangements that work effectively, but working with the staff team and listening to parents has led to a set of procedures which the governors believe to be robust, although it will require constant school vigilance and parents advising of any changes promptly to maintain a safe system.

Preparing for Ofsted - Internally, the school is working through a checklist of items that we want to make sure are easily available should we be Ofsted-ed in the autumn. Our church equivalent of OFSTED (called SIAMS), is due next year.

Academy position - We continue to actively discuss the various choices open to the school and to monitor the local situation and the national agenda. We have met with Excalibur Academy Trust (St Johns) and are also planning to have exploratory discussions with DSAT (Salisbury Diocese Academy Trust). The governor's view remains that there is no immediate requirement for the school to consider academy conversion, although a small number of other primary schools in the Marlborough cluster (including church schools) have either converted or have started the process. Should circumstances change, such as St Johns admission policy and catchment, or an adverse Ofsted inspection either of the school or the Council, then this might take the decision out of our hands. In any case, if there is an important decision to make, we will bring some recommendations to parents for views.

SATS - Governors heard a presentation from the teaching staff on the new outcomes for both KS1 and KS2. The government have introduced new SATS testing this year and left it very late to brief schools. They have also changed the performance levels such that children will be categorised into one of 3 broad levels, which are 'working towards expected', 'expected', and 'working with greater depth'. If a child misses a level because they have missed one point, they will be categorised in the same level as a pupil who has missed 4 or 5.

As part of preparing for the new SATS tests, the school shared the new success criteria with the year 6 pupils and worked with these in our after school booster groups (biscuit club), as well as using past papers for practice. As usual, the school provides parents with SATS results as part of the end of term (July) school reports. Given the changes this year, the school will also be arranging a meeting nearer the time with parents to talk to them about what the results mean.

Premises - In recognition of the increased use of **the side door** for the after school club, we are installing a lock and release system which will increase security and ensure that we know who is leaving and entering the building.

We have also undertaken a specialist inspection of **the school bell** as it has been out of action for several years, but we were keen to bring it back into use if at all possible. The bell is secure and there is no risk of it falling, but several parts require replacing to bring it back into operation. Subject to satisfactory quotes we will be doing this work which is good news.

The 30 new IPADs and associated IT equipment which have been purchased, as part of our 3 year IT strategy, are now being used within the school. This was reported recently in a nice article in the Gazette and Herald!

In memory of Judith and John Woodget and supported by Friends, work on a more permanent wooden gazebo at the rear of the school is being taken forward.

Associate Governors' report update - We are lucky to have three parents in Associate Governor roles, leading on website development, science experimentation and school publicity. We also have a Foundation Governor vacancy at present and so if you are confirmed and a church goer, then do have a chat with Maria if you are interested in joining our governing body.

I hope that you have found this interesting – if you have any feedback or have a question, then please send us an email via admin@kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk.

Rob Gittins and Sarah Till-Vattier, Co-Chair of Governors