



"Every Child Matters, Everyone Matters to Jesus"

Governors Report for parents– January 2016

Some of you have said that you would like to know a little more about what topics are under discussion by Governors and what decisions we are taking as a school. Therefore Sarah and I are going to trial doing a short summary of the highlights after each governing body meeting. The minutes of the meetings are already published on the school website here: <http://kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk/governors-meetings/>.

ICT

We heard feedback from Mrs Venner on the **recent computing week**. It was a great success with the children who learnt about robotics, coding and new inventions in computing to name a few. We have agreed [4 priority objectives](#) this year, and this includes 'Increasing the use of computing in all classes'. We have invested considerably in the Wi-Fi and other hidden infrastructure; Miss Chalker is attending sessions at a beacon school in Malmesbury and bringing back the learning to Kennet Valley; and we have put in a bid for funding for iPads.

Emergencies

The school already has emergency closure procedures, but we have now widened these to include what our policy would be for a wide range of **emergency situations** so that we are fully prepared. We have asked Mrs Venner to consider how we run a scenario to test this plan and our emergency parental contact system.

Link Governors

To ensure that we are giving subject areas specific focus, we have a school lead and link governor for all the key subject areas. At our meeting in January we heard from Mrs Russell and Paul Taylor (parent governor) on **numeracy**, including their observations on a range of class teaching.

School Council

The school has been working hard over the last two years to encourage and foster pupil's ability for self-directed learning and giving them **opportunities to take on responsibilities**. As a Governing body we now receive the notes of the School Council meetings and are encouraging the school to make this a more visible and valued group.

Traffic Initiative

We reviewed the work of the recent **traffic meeting in Lockeridge**, and agreed that we should use the upcoming parent's evenings in February to display posters about the risks of speeding traffic and what we can do about it.

Wrap around care

We discussed the **School Breakfast club** starting this month and reiterated to the school that we fully expected it to be a success, and for numbers to grow with time, as they did with after-school Dragon club.

Ofsted

Our thoughts are also now turning to **Ofsted**, as it will be three years since our last inspection, later this year. We have asked Mrs Venner to develop a checklist and to talk to other schools that have had a recent inspection, so that we can make sure we have the

necessary elements in place. We believe that we have a good school and that we will be able to demonstrate how we have improved over the last 3 years.

School website

One of the areas we have improved, but that we want to get much better at, is the school **website**. Although we are confident that it contains all the information that is nationally required, it remains rather clunky and not mobile friendly. This is an area that we will be seeking help with in the coming months. However, we have recently uploaded some information on all the [charitable activities](#) the school gets up to, which, we hope you will agree, looks quite impressive.

Academies

Finally, we discussed feedback from a governor that had attended a meeting with the Diocese about academy schools. The whole **topic of academies** is something that we regularly and actively discuss with Mrs Venner, to ensure that we are ready to take the right decisions for the school. Currently it is our view that circumstances don't require us to consider an application to become an academy. However, we are mindful of the various factors that might in the future mean that we recommend this to parents. Currently for example, St Johns School, Marlborough, as part of the Excalibur Academy group, is out to consultation on their admissions policy. This affects all schools in the area, and we thought it important to formally respond with our comments and questions. We have asked St Johns for a meeting to discuss our questions with them.

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

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