



'One family learning for life, on a journey towards our potential'

Governor Newsletter

Winter 2020

As Mrs Russell said in her last newsletter, having received feedback around communication from Governors in general, we would like to reinstate a quarterly newsletter from the Governors of Kennet Valley School. This will hopefully provide you interesting information about who the Governors are and what they do.

Governors work as a team with all the Kennet Valley staff towards our main objective: to provide the best possible education to all the children in our school. We meet together very regularly; formally in committee meetings of which there are 6 per year for each committee – Full Governing Body, Curriculum & Standards and Finance & Staffing; and informally in other meetings including school visits, training courses provided by the Diocese and the Council, and ad hoc meet ups. In order to support the amazing work the staff do, we have different responsibilities. Here is a summary of who we all are and what we are responsible for:

Governor	Type	Responsibilities
Peter Barry	Foundation	Vice-Chair Otters class link Health & Safety, Science, DT and TA link
Ana Beverley	Foundation	Otters class link SEND and Foundation Stage
Lizzie Daley	Foundation	C&S chair Hedgehogs class link English Reading, Equalities, Pupil Premium and SEND
Chris Diddams	Parent	F&S chair Data Committee chair Higher Achievers
Carolyn Gittins	Foundation	Evaluating SDP & SIAP, Art and Extended Schools
Angharad Hughes	Foundation	Foxes class link Geography and Monitoring CPD
Simon Jones	Foundation	Co-Chair Hedgehogs class link Health & Safety, Maths
Dan Miles	Parent	History & Community
Maria Shepherdson	Ex-officio	Badgers class link RE & Collective Worship and PSHCE
Sarah Till-Vattier	Local Authority	Co-Chair Foxes class link English Writing, Safeguarding and Whistleblowing

Mrs Russell holds this whole team together along with our staff governors, Mrs Hues and Mrs Morgan.

We also have the following Associate Members who help us with specific areas of interest:

Lucy Humphries (Environmental Group), Ali Jones (School Council), Becky Tilley (Website and Friends link) and Nick West-Oram (PE and Computing).

This academic year, the Governors have already spent a lot of time in school meeting with subject leads, visiting classes and clubs and completing 'learning walks' and 'book scrutinies' which help us to understand better how teaching and learning happens in our school and to gather evidence of the great work that is going on every day. This helps us to monitor and evaluate how our school is performing which, in turn, helps us to support the continuous improvements being made in our school. Here is a summary of our activities in the school so far this year:

Learning Walks	Whole School
	Science
	English Writing
	Art
	Guided Reading x2
Book Scrutinies	Science
	Maths x 2
	History
	English Writing
Visits	Science Club
	Dragon Club
	Collective Worship x3
Class Visits	Hedgehogs
	Foxes
	Otters
	Badgers
Subject Lead meetings	Guided Reading
	Maths
	English Writing
	Early Years
	Art
	Pupil Premium x2
	SEND x2
	Safeguarding

We have recently had a visit from Lesley Lowe, Regional School Improvement and Excellence Lead in Wiltshire and our School Improvement Adviser (SIA), who completed an SIA visit of the school to evaluate, its objectives and priorities, and she has provided us with a very positive report which ends: *“Although the school is currently categorised as 'vulnerable' it is on a rapid improvement journey towards 'secure'. The head teacher and governing body have worked relentlessly following the previous OFSTED Inspection to drive forward school improvement.*

Emma has worked tirelessly with the governing body to ensure that the whole staff team are 'on board' with the school improvement journey. Staff and Governors are clearly committed to ensuring that the children at Kennet Valley receive the best possible education. The school continues to be on a rapid journey of improvement.”

We have also, just this week, received a letter from the Director of Education and Skills congratulating us on our progress and especially recognising our achievements in Writing, Phonics and Early Years work: *“I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the recently validated outcomes achieved by your pupils in 2019, which are amongst the best primary schools in Wiltshire.”*

We are obviously very pleased that the hard work that staff and governors of the school do is having an impact and we continue to drive improvements forward to sustain this great achievement.

We hope that this short newsletter has provided you with some information about Governors that is useful. In the next edition, we will talk more about each governor so that you can get to know us better. We do encourage you to get in touch via the school with any of the governors if you have any feedback for us, any concerns or issues that you would like to discuss or if you would just like to know more about who we are and what we do.

Wishing you all a relaxing half term break with your children.