

Governor Newsletter–May 2022

Ana Beverly and Carolyn Gittins are both Foundation Governors . A foundation governor has the same responsibilities as all governors and the only difference is that they need to be practising Christians and have responsibility for ensuring that they contribute to preserving the Christian values of the school. They believe that Kennet Valley School does this well and this is at the core of the day to day running and all activities of the school. As a governor they have a strong commitment to the role and to helping to ensure the school continues to maintain and improve outcomes for children and that pupils and teachers have a willingness to learn.

Carolyn Gittins

I joined the governing body of our school in 2017 after the previous Ofsted review when my son Tom was there. I have witnessed a real growth the school, leading to the well-deserved 'Good Ofsted' achieved in 2020. Tom is now at St John's and is about to do his GCSEs. I always wondered how pupils transitioned from a small village school to a much bigger secondary school and I know through personal experience that the school values, the staff's knowledge and understanding of every child and the thorough handover of each child makes a very positive impact on this transition process. My daughter Martha is in year 6 and on her way to St John's in September. My observation is that children at Kennet Valley are polite and courteous, considerate of others and keen to learn and this all goes a long way to enabling their successes at the next level of education.

My areas of responsibility include overseeing the school development plan and I review this thoroughly every quarter and meet with Mrs Russell to talk it through together and to ensure it is an accurate reflection of work in progress and the impact of this. I work in healthcare at Prospect Hospice and a key element of my role is leading clinical services and improvements, so my skills are transferrable to the delivery of the school development plan.



I also link with Mrs Morgan in my link governor role for art and whilst I am in no way an artist myself, I enjoy art and I look to support this at school and create opportunities. At the end of last year I created the opportunity for every child at school to create a Christmas star to hang with the 1000 stars in St Mary's church in Marlborough as part of the community art exhibition which many of you will have visited. The primary school curriculum says that pupils should be given opportunities to use a range of materials creatively, to design and make products through drawing, painting and sculpture and my observation is that the school does this well across all age ranges.

I am link governor for the Wrens class and love going in to see this class in action! A good way of doing this is for me to come in and hear the children read. This helps me to get to know the children and tune into their progress. The class is always a very happy place with an

assortment of lively and thoughtful activities and group work going on. The use of the outdoor space for this class is of real value to their early learning and is in daily use no matter what the weather which is always great to see!

I am always keen to seek to support the school with new external opportunities to help broaden our horizons and recently I initiated and worked with Mrs Russell to set up the Thinking Music programme for year 4 & 5 – this is a fabulous opportunity for the children working with the team from Bristol University and it was great fun and a real encouragement to come into school and see a session in progress – the children were really engaged with the musicians and the energy and focus in the room was exciting to observe. The song they created about rivers was just brilliant! Of course this programme also exposes the pupils to the idea of university too which is so valuable. I also helped to find Alicia the new highly experienced choir leader and hope that the new after school club takes off with singers of all abilities, having fun together as they learn songs and harmonies. I am sure they'll produce some marvellous results!

My governor role at Kennet Valley School is a really rewarding opportunity to work alongside the other governors and teaching team to support the school strategy and to ensure we continue to have a thriving school.



Anastasia Beverley

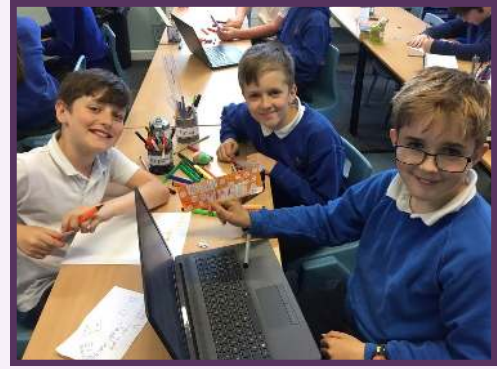
Anastasia Beverley (known at school as Ana!) became a Foundation Governor in the Autumn of 2019.

Having run 'Little Angels' (the Church's baby and preschool group) at the school for several years she was really excited to become more involved in the running of our little school. Ana feels that it is important that there is strong Christian ethos throughout the school day and is immensely proud of her role as a Foundation Governor supporting and contributing to this ethos.



Ana and her husband Mark have two children at Kennet Valley: Joseph in year 2 and Toby in reception. Little Angels continues to run every other week at the school and Ana and Angharad (see our last governor newsletter!) recently started up 'Movers and Seekers' which is a church group for families running about once every two terms. Ana feels strongly that faith should be entwined into daily activities and is accessible for all. Ana and Mark also have Eliza who will be joining the school in September 2025.

Ana has worked as a Speech and Language Therapist for over 15 years, with 12 of those in Wiltshire. She now works at as Autism Practitioner alongside other health professionals. Ana is Link Governor for SEN, foundation stage, PSHCE and extended schools. She brings her expertise in Special Educational Needs to our governing body and brings invaluable support to the school.



Don't forget ...

Please come along to school to meet some of our governing body on Friday 20th May 2022.

This is an opportunity to talk to them about our school, their role within it and to discuss any important views that you have.

Arrive anytime between 08:45 and 09:45 for a cup of tea and a chat.

TEA AND TOAST MORNING

**Please join our Governors for
Coffee, Tea and Pastries**

Friday 20th May

8.45am to 9.45am

in our school hall.

**This is a chance to get to know members of our
Governing Body and find out about their important
role within our school.**

