Governors' Newsletter – October 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you, and your children, have settled into the new academic year. I, on behalf of the governors, will communicate with you on a regular basis following our governing board meetings, in order to keep you up to date with developments at the school, and to give you an insight into the work of the governing board.

This will be a summary of our meetings, while the more detailed minutes will be posted on the school website. Please note that we will not be able to include any personal, or confidential, information.
If you have any questions about governors, and the work we do, you can direct them to me at harryjames250751@gmail.com and I will answer them as quickly as I can.

The main part of our discussion at board meetings is centred around, what we call, our Rapid Improvement Plan (RIP) that focuses on the areas that need to be addressed in order to move the school forward quickly. Those areas are; Leadership and Oversight, the Resource Base, the Quality of Education, and Behaviour. There are a number of detailed actions associated with each area, which we go through at every meeting. We rate progress against each area as Green (on track or completed), Amber (need to keep under close scrutiny) and Red (needs urgent attention).

Our current assessment is;

- Leadership and Oversight - Green. All the systems, processes and reporting mechanisms are in place, and are working well. We will keep it under review.
- Resource Base – Amber. A specific curriculum has been developed and is being introduced. Structures and routines are in place, and all staff have undertaken the necessary training. There are still some behavioural issues that need to be addressed. A meeting with parents has been held and was attended by; Ms Davies (Executive Headteacher), Mrs Beechey (Acting Headteacher), and Harry James (Chair of the IEB).
- Quality of Education – Amber. While a number of initiatives have been introduced, and targeted training undertaken, it is too early to measure their impact.
- Behaviour – Green. Behaviour systems are now well established, have had a positive impact and will strengthen over time.
- School leaders are developing an inclusion approach following working with River Learning Trust whose provision has been recognised by the DfE as an example of effective practice.

Other issues that were discussed/noted, included;

- We continue to provide training for staff to support pupils with Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Governors' meetings will be scheduled to align with when the latest data is available.
- Staff absence data will be provided to governors so that we can see any trends and what might be causing them. For example, staff absence has reduced following the introduction of a new Absence Policy.
- A staff survey will take place towards the end of half term. Responses (anonymous) will be analysed, and action taken where appropriate.
- Budget monitoring papers will be presented to every board meeting. A Finance Governor has been appointed to work closely with the School Business Manager. Taking into account any exceptional circumstances, the current budget is as expected, without any concerns.
- The IEB will evaluate its own effectiveness and make any necessary improvements.
- Governors, and school leaders, will establish a strategic vision of where the school wants to be in 3-5 years' time. This will also include input from staff, parents, pupils (e.g what is important to them), and the local community.
- A Health & Safety audit has taken place and no significant concerns were highlighted. We will continue to have regular H&S walks around the school, to pick up any issues that need attention.
- The caretaker has moved on, and we will be looking for a replacement. School Leaders will ensure that essential tasks are still undertaken.
- Governors received an update on safeguarding incidents that had occurred since the last meeting. *Note; we cannot identify any individuals, or specific circumstances, of these incidents.* Governors' sought, and got, assurances that the incidents had been dealt with, and that there were comprehensive risk assessments in place and that all required training had been delivered.
- It was noted that Mrs Beechey will continue as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will be supported by four further DSLs so that there will always be sufficient expertise on site.
- A fire safety inspection has taken place and we have the appropriate compliance certificate.

Harry James
Chair, IEB
Kennet Valley Primary School