



Please get in touch:

Email:

KPSGovernors@welearn365.com

Call or Write:

Via the school office (01926 640397).

In person:

Whenever you see us... in the playground, or at one of our events. You will find our photos below to help you recognise us!



Chair's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all been enjoying the recent sunshine as much as I have!

It's been a busy time for both governors and the school since the start of 2025. Alongside our usual programme of monitoring and regular meetings, we've been heavily involved in headteacher recruitment and an Ofsted inspection. I'm so grateful for our team of governors who have really stepped up to support these priorities.

Along with other governors, I met with the Ofsted inspector during her visit to school last term. By the time we spoke she was well into the second day and clearly had a strong understanding of our school. We had a good conversation about the role and impact of the Local Academy Council. I also attended the feedback session at the end of the inspection, and it was an absolute delight. This quote from the report sums it up for me:

"Pupils thrive here. Dedicated staff know the pupils, their interests and their needs, well. Through this knowledge, care and support, pupils engage happily in their learning. They behave well and take their education and personal responsibilities seriously."

The Ofsted report is glowing and it follows a thorough and fair inspection – please do read it if you haven't already. <https://www.kinetonprimaryschool.org.uk/page/?title=Ofsted+and+SIAMS&pid=24>

As you know, Mrs. Pollard will be retiring at the end of the school year in July. Whilst this truly feels like the end of an era, it is wonderful that Mrs. Pollard's exit will be at a time when the school is growing in strength and following such a fantastic Ofsted inspection outcome, a testament to her leadership. There will be time for goodbyes before the end of the school year and we will continue to work with her as usual until her departure in July.

There is more on head teacher recruitment on the next page, but I want to recognise that transition to new leadership brings a degree of uncertainty. Therefore, it has been vital for us to conduct a thorough and fair recruitment process. This was led by governors at Kineton, predominantly by my Vice Chair, Adam Sharpe as well as Melanie Mathews and Jill Lawrence. Staff, children, the MAT and the diocese all inputted to the process and we are highly confident that Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton is the right person to lead our school from September this year. As our current Deputy Head she knows our school community well, has been a driving force in curriculum development, is already a senior leader and excelled during a two-day interview process. Governors are looking forward to working with her and supporting her as she settles into her new role. We



Governor Newsletter

Spring 2025



will support the transition over the coming months but for now, my congratulations and best wishes to her on behalf of all governors.

Lastly, Helen Sayers, one of our Foundation Governor's and our SEND lead has stepped down as a governor recently. This means we have a Foundation Governor vacancy. I will be the new SEND lead for governors, ensuring we have oversight in this important area. Please reach out to me or any Foundation Governor if you'd like to know more about the vacancy.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer term.

Sophie Knee-Higgins

Chair of Governors, Kineton Primary School

Headteacher Recruitment

In case you missed it – please see our announcement of our new headteacher:

The Local Academy Council (Governors) and Stour Federation MAT board are delighted to announce the appointment of our new headteacher, Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton, who will take up the role from September.

Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton was unanimously selected by the interview panel (which consisted of a representative of the Diocese of Coventry, a member of the MAT board and three members of the Local Academy Council) following a rigorous shortlisting and interview process. The panel were supported by other members of the LAC, school community including staff and pupil voices, Revd Barry Jackson and independent advice from an experienced headteacher. Everyone involved was impressed with her passion for the school and high standards in every element of the thorough process.

Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton will be known to many of you already as having dedicated 14 years of her career to Kineton, and we have benefited hugely from the many initiatives she has led including our current curriculum, early years and KS1 provision as well as more recently her passion for the OPAL project. We are excited to welcome her into the role of headteacher and very much look forward to working together on many strategic initiatives to come and wish her every success and happiness.

We invite you to congratulate Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton in her new role and are sure you'll hear more from her in due course.

Further to this announcement we would like to share that we are working closely with school leaders to identify excellent candidates to fill the gap which Mrs. Mitchell-Hilton's promotion has created. We are focussed on ensuring our staff support the successful education of our children and continue to provide great leadership, both of which were demonstrated in our recent Ofsted inspection. We will of course update you further as this develops.

Pupil outcomes

Unsurprisingly given the recent Ofsted inspections results (well done to all involved!!) the attainment data we saw in our latest meeting was showing good outcomes for the majority of pupils. We are confident that the team are focussed on the right improvement areas and have no concerns about the progress of pupils. Through our ongoing monitoring visits we will continue to work with staff to ensure this remains the case. Our year 6 pupils will sit their SATS this month and we wish them all every success in both these exams and their wider preparations for secondary school.

Finance Update

The governors continue to work closely with the school, Trust and accountants to monitor and oversee the school's budgets. Later in the term budgets will be set for 2025/26. As the governor finance lead, I review the accounts monthly with Mrs Pollard and Mrs Schumann. The full accounts are reviewed by all governors and discussed at our meetings.

As the school enters the final term of the year, we remain focused on ensuring best value from all budgets across staff and contractors. Like any organisation, contracts for services and maintenance need to be reviewed to ensure the best value for money and most appropriate educational materials in school, ordering only what is needed to minimise wastage and surplus - this is something that the sustainability group are also considering. All areas have a financial impact but need to deliver the best outcome to be able to provide a thriving, safe and enjoyable environment for all our pupils.

As reported in January, capital funding was used to complete the secure new perimeter fence and gates. Work will shortly be completed on new shutters, a fire safety requirement, in the kitchen. This term, we have been able to repair the boilers so both are currently operational, but we are awaiting the outcome of a funding bid to replace them.

Melanie Mathews

Finance Lead

Sustainability Update

Meetings have continued with an engaged group of volunteers and we have completed our carbon counting assessment. Kineton has performed well in a benchmark against other similar primary schools which is great news and is testament to the great work already completed, largely led by the passion of Janet Nelson.

We have identified a few target areas for the school, with our action plan focussing on food, uniform, climate resilience and bio-diversity. There are significant links with the school's OPAL strategy and we are excited to support the embedding of this within school life. Governors have asked for sustainability to be considered in the ongoing catering tendering process.

Please keep an eye out in school newsletters for how you can engage for sustainable uniform use / re-use in the near future.

Adam Sharpe

Sustainability Lead

Meet the Governor – Tom Charman, Parent Governor



I'm delighted to join the governing body at Kineton Primary School and have felt very welcomed by the community. I hope to contribute to the school's ongoing positive journey and help expand the opportunities available to our pupils. Over the past 15 years, I have held various roles in secondary education, starting as a Teaching Assistant and progressing into Senior Leadership. Currently, I work for TeachFirst, supporting trainee teachers in becoming more effective and impactful in the classroom while achieving their QTS and PGCE qualifications. I have also previously served as a governor at Kineton High School. I am eager to give back to the school community and its leaders, as well as broaden my knowledge of the primary sector. I hope my skills and experience can help shape educational policy, teaching and learning strategies, and contribute to the workings of a successful school environment.

Current Governing Body 2024/2025



Sophie Knee-Higgins
Chair of Governors



Adam Sharpe
Vice Chair & Parent Governor



Margaret Pollard
Headteacher



Nicola Field
Staff Governor



Melanie Mathews
Foundation Governor
Finance Lead



Janet Nelson
Chair of Premises Committee
Safeguarding (e-safety)
Foundation Governor



Revd. Barry Jackson
Ex-officio



Sally Stanton
Foundation Governor
Performance and Standards Lead



Tom Charman
Parent Governor



Emma Richardson
Staff Governor



Judy Ashton
Foundation Governor
Safeguarding Lead



Jill Lawrence
Foundation Governor

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