

Governor update: Summer term 2024

As we end the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to recognise the Chair of the Finance Committee, Dave Shirt, who has decided to step down as a Governor after 34 years' service. We thank him for his dedication and attention to detail to keep the school on track.

Taking his place is Karen Dignan, who you may know from her active role in the local community. As well as formally welcome Sue Phillips to the board, who many of your children will know because Sue also volunteers to hear the children read in school.



Review of the School Development Plan

The school and governors agreed a three-year evolving 'School Development Plan', which sets out our strategic priorities. As the Governing Body, we hold the school to account to ensure the plan is delivered – and effective.

Following the school's [good Ofsted report](#) last year, we continue to see steady progress made towards an outstanding learning environment for our children, and a great place to work for our staff.

To find out more about the Governors visit the school website.
If you have any questions, please contact the Governors via our Clerk, Gayle Bonner.
Email gbonner@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk or phone **0118 971 3362**

Priority 1: Whole school curriculum

The curriculum remains diverse with a strong focus on the core skills of [Maths](#) and [English](#). Each year, lessons build on the children's existing knowledge to further their learning. However, one of our biggest concerns remains absenteeism, which Ofsted also highlighted:

“A few pupils still do not attend regularly enough and do not fully benefit from all the school has to offer.”

Missing just 4-days of school per year can stop children achieving their expected grades at KS2¹. Therefore, we continue to monitor absenteeism closely alongside the school and local authority.

Priority 2: Inclusion, behaviour and wellbeing

Our school continues to follow a [‘therapeutic thinking’](#) approach, which means ensuring the individual needs of children and staff are met, so they feel equally included in school life, have the best environment to learn/work, and feel safe at school.

Additionally, at the beginning of the year, Doves moved into its new setting, ensuring all children are supported to learn alongside their peers and benefit from the schools' ambitious curriculum.

Priority 3: Community

All of our staff have worked hard throughout the year to offer new experiences to the children, connecting with other schools and local businesses for sporting events, choir performances, and the annual Book Week.

Ofsted recognises us as being a good school where our children are happy – but it takes the whole community to keep it going. From volunteering your time, to sharing your feedback, asking your employer about charitable donations or match funding, attending PTA events, and sharing materials for in-class projects - there are so many ways for you to get involved.

¹ <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>