



26 September 2025

News about the Board of Governors

Dear Parents

I just wanted to give you an update regarding our board of governors.

At the start of last year, we welcomed Mrs Kim James MBE to the board. Kim used to work for the Local Authority in the role of Head of Service: Learning & School Improvement. Children, Education & Families bringing a wealth of experience, especially linked to Service Pupils. We also, more recently, welcomed Mr Mark Winch, a very experienced governor who has been governor and Chair of Governors on many governing boards around the county. I am sure you will join me in giving them a warm RAF Benson Primary School welcome and will look forward to seeing them at parents evening and other events coming up over the year.

During the last academic year, we said farewell to Jess Robinson, parent governor, and also in the summer we said farewell to Linda Hull, LA governor, who had come to the end of her term. I would like to formally thank both Jess and Linda for their hard work and fabulous contributions to our school over the course of their term - they will be very much missed.

After 6 years of being Chair of Governors, Nikki Gasan has decided to step down from this role. She has done a fabulous job in supporting the leadership of the school as the Chair during this time including taking us through 2 Ofsted inspections! I am sure you will join me in thanking Nikki for all of her hard work and dedication to the role and to the support she has given to us all as a team here. We are lucky in that she is staying as a governor on the board so we do not lose her expertise.

Our new Chair of Governors is Richy Irwin. Richy has written an introduction below:

Hello to you all,

My name is Richy Irwin and I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected Chair of the School Governing Board. I am a serving RAF engineer and I have been part of the RAF Benson community since 2002 along with my wife Annette, who has also served at RAF Benson and more recently been a Civil Servant on Base.

Our 2 children have both attended the School and were both in mixed year groups 5 years apart, so I am acutely conscious of the situation we currently find ourselves in as well as the challenges and opportunities that are posed.

Having been a member of the Board for the last two years, my role as Chair will be to ensure that the Governing Board support the School Team to the best of our ability, while applying the scrutiny that you as parents would expect in accordance with the relevant legislation and

regulation, so that the School continues to build on the excellence recognised by OFSTED and enables our young people to be the best that they can be.

We have a fabulous school and an amazing group of young people, many of whom I have already met through my visits and trips I have supported, and I look forward to playing a small part in their ongoing development.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Richy in his role and we look forward to seeing Richy around school when he is able.

Should you have any questions for governors or around the governing board, please email the school office.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher