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Mr L Jackson
Chair of Governors

As another busy academic year ends, we would like to start by recognising the time, effort and generosity of support that continues to make Bridgetown the school that it is. On behalf of all governors, our sincere thanks to everyone in the school community who make this possible. Recent highlights include the FOBS Summer Fayre, Sports Days and important events to mark the transition of Year 6 to their new secondary schools. We want to wish all our current Year 6 pupils every success for the next stage of their education.

The governing board has continued to engage with the school regularly this term. We remain assured of the work that is being undertaken by the leadership team, and wider staff body, towards the continued development and improvement of the school for all its pupils. Further to the letter shared last term, we have now concluded our external review of governance and have recently met and discussed the summary report from this review process. The report contained supportive recommendations for the board to consider, particularly around further training opportunities, and many of these have been actioned or planned for already. There were many highlights, but we were particularly pleased that the reviewer recognised that:

It is clear from the responses to the Governor questionnaire, the conversation with the head, the chair and observation of an FGB meeting, that governors appreciate that their role is a strategic one, and they should not be involved in operational decision making. They are also aware that their role is to provide support and challenge, and that it is important that this is balanced. […] Without exception, all governors at Bridgetown Primary School are committed to the success of the school.

We are also saying goodbye to three members of our board at the end of this term. Lindsey Flatres, currently our longest serving governor, is stepping down after six years in post as our Local Authority appointed governor. Lindsey's impressive financial background and corporate leadership experience have been invaluable during her time on the board. Her calm and consistent approach were highly valued within her previous roles as Chair of the Finance Committee and Co Vice-Chair of the board. We wish Lindsey every success for the next chapter in her career and (maybe one day!) retirement. One of our associate governors, Larry Coltman, has been successfully appointed as our new Local Authority governor and we look forward to continuing to work with Larry in this new role from September. We would also like to thank Tom Puar for all his contributions during his time as a governor. Tom joined the board as a co-opted governor in September 2024 and he has served as Chair of the Finance Committee and Co Vice-Chair this academic year. His analytical approach to improvement has strengthened existing practice and we wish Tom every success and enjoyment for his future career and time spent with family. Finally, we would like to thank Carlijn Thijssen-Jones, our staff governor, for her support during the past two years. Carlijn has attended many meetings and actively contributed to discussions, after long days at school, always ensuring that the board was provided with valuable insights from a staff perspective. We want to wish Carlijn every success for the future and hope that she has a well-earned opportunity to enjoy the holidays before she starts at her new school.

Our sincere thanks to all staff at the school, and to members of the wider community, for your support, patience and understanding as we have navigated the challenge of very high temperatures over the last few weeks. I hope that you all have enjoyable summer break, filled with fond memories, and we look forward to welcoming our existing families, as well as our new ones, to the Bridgetown at the start of September.

Yours sincerely,
Luke Jackson (Chair of Governors), on behalf of the Governing Body