

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

We are coming to the end of another busy academic year at Mandeville.

A particular highlight of the year was of course the completion and opening of the outstanding new school block. This was the culmination of years of planning and hard work, as explained in more detail below by Sarah Lilly, who brilliantly led the School Expansion Team.

Mandeville is always a hive of activity in the summer term as the end of the year builds to a crescendo. Several classes have been on exciting trips, and there have been lots of great opportunities for children to showcase their talents through a variety of concerts and performances. It

was also fantastic to see so many people at the PTA's Summer Fayre, which was great fun and raised valuable funding for the school.

This is the time we also have to say an emotional farewell to our current year 6 pupils and wish them the very best of luck for the next stage of their learning journey.

For those who will still be with the school in September, there is lots to look forward to. The school will continue its expansion by welcoming its second two-form cohort into Reception, as well as expanding our nursery provision to 30 hours and welcoming JAM childcare to provide an after-school club. Pupils will also get to use our

amazing (and huge!) new school field for the first time.

Before we get there, we have the school holidays to look forward to, and we hope everyone in the school community gets the opportunity for some well-deserved rest and recovery!



Ricard Whisker
Vice Chair of Governors

Meet the Governor

Fernanda Champness

Chair of Governors

I have been a governor at Mandeville since July 2018. I was a parent at the school and was always very interested in how the school, and education generally, worked. I was keen to get involved 'behind the scenes' and do what I could to help the school continue to be as successful as it was.

I have learnt a huge amount during my time on the governing board and I am always amazed by the number of caring and committed individuals that I encounter at our school and beyond, who care passionately about children. I never realised how all-encompassing "education" is, I always thought it was about teaching maths, English, music and other subjects, but I was so pleased to discover that it is so much more than that. It

is about guiding children to become settled, resilient, open-minded learners who will be able to conquer the grown up world with an amazing set of skills.

I grew up in different countries as my dad's job moved us around. My experiences at schools were all very different and I don't remember much attention being paid to our well-being, mental health and personal development, which is such a huge step forward.

I previously spent 9 years working in the background screening division of a company called Control Risks Group. When I left, I was the Director of Operations for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

I took some time away from work while I had my 3 children, all boys, and returned to work 3 years ago in a very

different industry.

I currently run a baby bank called Bump to Five, which is a part of a charity in Harlow called Michael Roberts Charitable Trust (MRCT). Working in the charity sector has been such a different experience and I have learnt so much about some of the challenges facing families and in particular, young children.

I am looking forward to continuing to support our school as we continue to expand and develop within our community.



School Expansion update

Sarah Lilly

Chair of the School Expansion Team and Link Governor for Health and Safety.

On 10th May, Mandeville Primary School held an opening ceremony for the new KS2 building. The weather was sunny and warm and our staff and pupils gathered outside the block to welcome many guests, including Hertfordshire County Councillors, HCC employees, and also the team from Apex Contractors Ltd.

This day was a celebration of the huge amount of work by many teams collaborating over several years. Several years ago, as we started the planning, the pandemic arrived, and we faced challenges with the changes and consequences that this brought. It was soon after that Anne Crowne from HCC and Neil Smith from Apex joined the multidisciplinary team.

Work then began in earnest to deliver this complex and wide-ranging development project which involved not only construction of the wonderful new learning space the school has today, but also many changes to the existing school building. Remarkably, all this has been achieved while - in general - the school continued to function as usual.

When we as governors first visited the block during the construction phase, we were awed by the possibilities and opportunities this would give our pupils and community. The whole school is now an amazing learning space and the KS2 block has classrooms with learning walls and screens. The new Hall is a great opportunity for all pupils to develop their skills and enjoy a wide range of sports and PE in all weathers, as well as for the whole school to get together for assemblies and performances.

We are also delighted to be able to offer the Hall, field and outdoor courts for hire to the community out of school hours.

We are so grateful to everyone who has played their part in making this happen - Anne Crowne from HCC, Neil Smith from Apex, Miss Hales our Headteacher who has worked tirelessly to ensure a calm and ordered time during much change, our governors (especially the School Expansion Team) supporting the school throughout, our staff accommodating classroom moves, and our pupils - because they all have taken everything in their stride and

watched the building grow in front of their eyes.

All our pupils had an opportunity to enter a competition to name this new building. Governors reviewed the suggestions and felt that one name reflected both the positive teamwork of the building's creation but also the fantastic learning space that this will be for years to come. Miss Hales was asked to step forward and cut the ribbon and announced that the name of the building was **Synergy**.

Pupils also surprised Miss Hales at the end of the ceremony, because we had all decided to name the school Hall after her to recognise her outstanding leadership over this project and over many years, and they presented a name plaque to her which said '**Hales Hall**'.

We feel so fortunate that our pupils and staff are now enjoying a wonderful environment to learn and achieve and we thank everyone involved who helped us achieve this for the community of Sawbridgeworth.

