

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

The expansion project was completed and delivered in January 2024.

We started the year with a flurry of activity to move the KS2 pupils into the brand new building, which the children have named 'Synergy'.

The 2 additional inset days had staff moving and setting up classrooms to ensure an exciting and safe environment when the children arrived back to school after the Christmas holidays.

We continued to work with the school to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible for both staff and pupils.

In addition to the changes that have come with the expansion, we have also been working on the priorities in the school improvement plan, attending focused visits and starting to agree our strategic plan for the next academic year.

The budget is also a key focus of the Spring term, and this work will be finalised by the board in the first half of the Summer term. We are exploring other opportunities for growth with an expanded Nursery provision as well as wrap-around care for the new academic year.

We envisage the summer term will be another busy but exciting time for our excellent school.



Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors

School Expansion update

Sarah Lilly *Chair of the School Expansion Team and Link Governor for Health and Safety*

Mandeville Primary School has just completed a major expansion programme. The school is now welcoming 30 additional pupils each year to their Reception classes following completion of the expansion plan to accommodate the additional pupils who are moving into the new housing developments in Sawbridgeworth.

The Key Stage 2 pupils (7-11 years old) are now enjoying a new 8 classroom block with learning walls and large screens. In the same building is the new Sports Hall, and the whole school can enjoy this space for PE activities and assemblies.

In addition, the school playing field has been extended to accommodate two sports pitches, which will provide

excellent opportunities for PE and games.

The school is pleased that the classroom block was designed to operate as a net zero carbon building.

For our younger pupils, the Early Years outdoor area has been transformed and now includes mud kitchens, climbing frames, water walls and creative spaces, as well as an outdoor classroom, which is sheltered and can be used all year round.

Pupils have been thrilled with their outdoor learning area and external professionals and visitors have been impressed with the quality of learning opportunities this area presents

The original building has been refurbished to include

redecorated Key Stage 1 classrooms, a new kitchen, staffroom, Administration Office and Headteacher's Office.

Everyone is delighted with the new environment and pupils and staff have been impressed by the lack of day to day disruption during the building work, although there have been some busy times as classroom moves took place, and we would like to thank our staff and parents for their incredible support during this time of change.

Mandeville Primary School looks forward to welcoming our whole community to the school and are pleased to offer learning opportunities for our local children from across the town of Sawbridgeworth.

School Effectiveness Adviser Visit

Every term, we are visited by a 'School Effectiveness Adviser' (SEA) from HFL Education. The aim of the visit is to work with leaders to explore the quality of education and the school's overall effectiveness, providing professional challenge.

The visit took place on 19th March and evidence from leaders and pupil voice both clearly demonstrate that personal development at Mandeville is strategically planned across many threads and highly valued by children. The following points in the SEA's report exemplify this:

- Pupils spoke warmly about their relationships with trusted adults and gave lots of examples of this, sharing statements such as, 'they believe in me'.
- Pupils shared how they are never bored, providing examples of lunchtime resources, clubs and leadership opportunities.
- In relation to clubs, leaders shared some statistics, for example, 192 children are engaged in sporting clubs (of a wide range) this term. Pupils spoke too of their pride in representing Mandeville at a range of sporting events, giving

examples of tennis, tag rugby and athletics.

- Leaders shared how carefully mapped visits and visitors are to the curriculum, providing enriching opportunities in every year group and across subject areas. This is highly evident from pupil voice, where pupils could recall with ease a wide range of such visits and could talk about their learning with examples. Our discussion ranged from the William Morris gallery fabric and designs to a visit to a synagogue; from orienteering within Epping Forest to a scientist visit in school.

- Pupils spoke about democracy with clarity as to its importance. In talking about their community, they offered and explained well the difference between equity and equality and why this mattered. A powerful comment was made by a pupil who arrived at Mandeville in Year 5; she explained the kind welcome she had received by all.

- Pupils spoke at length of the education they receive in relation to keeping themselves safe. They recalled with ease examples from awareness of dangers (roads, for example), determining who and how to trust in society, and how to

keep safe online.

- Year 6 leaders spoke of their responsibilities, both to younger children at Mandeville and in how they are supported to prepare for the next stage of their education. Examples of their leadership included activities for world book day and a competition for red nose day.

- Pupils are clear of the importance of PSHCE at Mandeville and how it is taught every week. They gave examples of learning from many of the strands of the curriculum, implying that the curriculum is being implemented as intended. They approached sharing content with a mature attitude, including relationships education; financial matters (how to use money, awareness of scams); regulation of emotions in difficult situations; physical and mental health and well-being; and how to view the world with hope and optimism.

The visit was extremely valuable and the SEA's report states, "Leadership and pupil voice evidenced personal development to be a significant strength".

Miss Hales
Head Teacher

Meet the Governor

Amanda Taylor

Member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Link Governor for Pupil Premium



I was delighted to be voted in as a parent governor in 2001, and am proud to have been involved in the important changes the school has gone through over this time.

I currently have 2 children at Mandeville, one in year 4 and one in the new double intake reception year. I am very pleased that both my children are thriving in the school and put this down to the excellent care they receive here.

Outside of school, I am a

fundraising events organiser for the mental health charity Mind. It's a cause I am very passionate about, and believe that creating a conducive environment for good mental health for both teachers and children helps foster the best environment for learning.