

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

This is an incredibly exciting year for Mandeville School.

We took our first double intake into Reception in September, marking the start of the school's expansion to 2 forms of entry.

This journey will continue with the grand opening of our new school block in January 2024, accommodating our Key stage 2 pupils, with room for future years of growth.

Governors have been working with the school to plan the expansion roadmap and ensure we retain our core values and ethos as we

expand, while also making the most of the new opportunities that a larger school will bring.

It has been important to the board and the school that we retain our excellent provision as the school goes through this process, something that we are proud to say has been achieved.

We look forward to returning in the New Year to continue to work strategically to ensure the best outcomes for our children. On behalf of all governors, we wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas and a great start to 2024.



School Expansion update

Sarah Lilly

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

As we approach the exciting time when the school can enjoy moving into the additional classroom block, governors have been reflecting on the expansion journey the school has been on over the past few years.

Recently governors were invited to visit the block as it nears completion, and six governors with Miss Hales were shown around the site by Mr Smith (Apex Project Manager).

Governors were very impressed with the size and scope of the building. They found the classrooms to be

spacious and were delighted with the outside space and the large field that will be available to the pupils once this is ready for use.

Governors were also permitted to view the roof, and were impressed with the solar panels which perform a major role in contributing to the building being a Net Zero Carbon project, which had been a key focus for governors for several years.

The highlight of the tour was the new hall, and governors welcomed the size and airy feeling. They were pleased that this space would be a

real asset for the pupils and noted the work of governors past and present that had ensured that this hall was included in the expansion project.

Governors acknowledged what a remarkable job Mr Smith and his team had done to construct this large building with limited impact on the school and under notable time constraints, and we look forward to celebrating the completion of the project with you all in the New Year.

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 14th November and focussed on the Ofsted areas for Improvement identified at our recent inspection in February. It included a learning walk of every class to identify evidence of best practice in relation to using assessment information with precision during teaching and learning.

A number of overall strengths were identified by the SEA, including:

- There was evidence of lots of strategies for checking children's understanding being used as learning proceeded.

- There was evidence of precision of knowledge of children's understanding.

- There was evidence of a strong culture and ethos across the lessons visited where every child was expected to fully engage with learning.

- It was clear that learning was progressive and sequential in all lessons visited. Children were consistently able to articulate what they had done before.

- There was strong practice in the use of questioning to ask children, 'How do you

know?'

- It was highly evident how questioning was adjusted to support children's engagement and how responsive questioning built knowledge and skills as the lesson progressed.

The visit was extremely valuable and the SEA's report states, "Leaders demonstrated at this visit their commitment to further developing the curriculum, and teaching and learning, in the ways identified by Ofsted as areas for improvement".

Miss Hales
Head Teacher

Meet the Governor

Kim Perez

Member of the Resources Committee and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for English and PSHE

It was my absolute pleasure to become a co-opted member of the governing board of Mandeville Primary School in February 2023. It is a privilege to be able to support and contribute to the fantastic work that the school does.

I have lived in Sawbridge-worth since 1991 and both of my children attended the school, as did my niece and nephew. All, now adults, look back on their time at Mandeville with great fondness.

I have worked in education since completing my training in 1981. I was Deputy Headteacher at Mandeville

from 2005 until January 2012, when I left to take up the headship of another primary school in Hertfordshire. I retired from headship in August 2022, following more than ten successful years, and currently work part-time as a School Effectiveness Adviser for Herts for Learning Education supporting eight primary schools.

Mandeville holds a special place in my heart, having taught within its classrooms and watching my own children flourish under its care. I am passionate about education meeting the needs of all children and allowing them to open the door of

opportunity. I am delighted to once again be a part of Mandeville Primary School and to be able to contribute to its continued development.

