

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

We are coming to the end of another academic year, and we have a lot to celebrate.

This year the school has achieved a number of commendations including for their sustainable travel, eco initiatives, curriculum work and Safeguarding procedures.

The school has also had a number of challenges, including ensuring that the ongoing building work did not impact significantly on the pupil's experiences and achievements. As governors, we have

worked closely with the school to ensure we continue to have clarity of vision, focus on our key priorities and plan strategically for our new expanded school.

Next year will bring some new exciting opportunities to expand our team and our cohort as we continue to support our expanding community.

We hope you have a sunny and fun-filled summer break, and we look forward to returning in September to continue to support the school to be the best it can possibly be.



Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors

Travel Plan Award

For ten years, Mandeville Primary School has taken part in the Modeshift STARS scheme, which supports the delivery of effective Travel Plans in education, business and community settings.

The STARS education scheme recognises schools and other educational establishments that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel, which in turn improves children's health and well-being.

It is supported by the Department for Transport and has seen over 1,400 schools in England achieve accreditation since its inception. In the autumn and spring of each year, schools, local authorities and key partners come together for

the National STARS School Travel Awards which recognise the outstanding schools from each local authority.

I am delighted to inform you that this year, **Mandeville Primary won the Modeshift Stars 'Hertfordshire Local Authority Primary School of the Year' and 'East of England Primary School of the Region' awards.**

As a result, we had the privilege of being invited to attend the National Award, which took place in the Riverside Rooms at County Hall on the South Bank – overlooking the River Thames, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye.

Our two Active Travel Ambassadors and two



members of our Eco-Committee delivered a presentation focussing on our school's biggest achievement that has been realised through taking part in the Modeshift STARS scheme. It was a very memorable day and our pupils were an absolute credit to the school.

Miss Hales
Head Teacher

Meet the Governor

Lloyd Heapy

Member of the Resources Committee and Subject Link Governor for PE and Design & Technology.



It was a pleasure to be asked to write a small piece for this newsletter. I have lived in Sawbridge-worth since I started study at Leventhorpe in 1990 and my wife and I now have two children going through education at Mandeville, so joined the board in a parent governor capacity at the end of the summer term 2022.

I work for a

Cambridge based child protection charity as Head of IT, so wanted to lend my expertise to the school as much as possible. I work closely with law enforcement and regulatory bodies, some of the biggest tech organisations in the world as well as several other child focussed charities. Plus coming from a Non-Profit organisation I'm used to the education sectors mandate of working to tight budgets!

My first experiences of becoming a Mandeville parent during the pandemic

were extremely positive, especially given the conditions at the time.

As a parent governor my motivations for joining the board were that I might help contribute in a small way to this amazing school for the benefit of my children, and of course every child. I believe the school is truly outstanding with a staff who are passionate about creating a positive learning environment. My experiences on the board so far have only reinforced those beliefs.

School Expansion update

Sara Lilly

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

The expansion project continues to move forward swiftly, and you will have noticed the new fencing around the EYFS area, ready for this external space to be developed into an exciting learning and play zone over the summer break. The EYFS team have worked hard on the design of this new area, and we are all excited to see this beginning to take shape.

The additional classroom block is also developing quickly, and the school is reviewing samples of flooring, fabrics and work-tops, ready for installation over the coming months.

Governors have been reviewing quotes for classroom furniture and IT equipment, as well as discussing the logistics for the summer and autumn terms, when we will be welcoming our new Nursery and Reception pupils.

Over the latter part of the summer term, there may be changes to the way we move around the school site and during some school days. As always, we ask you to bear with us, and to be aware of signage while taking care when on the school premises. We all look forward to seeing the exciting changes as the additional block grows over this term.

Subject Link - Maths

Richard Whisker

Vice Chair of the Governing Body, Chair of the Resources Committee, Subject Link Governor for Mathematics and a member of the School Travel Team.

As subject link Governor for Maths, I meet with Mrs Bishop (Maths subject lead) each term to discuss the approach to Maths teaching across the school and progress against the school's priorities.

A particular focus this year has been on improving children's Maths fluency and ability to recall basic Maths facts, which helps provide a solid

foundation for further learning (as well as being important in their future day-to-day lives!).

As part of this, every class spends some time each day practising key Maths skills. Evidence so far suggests this has helped improve children's confidence in Maths, which is so important in ensuring all pupils can fulfil their

potential. At my most recent subject link visit earlier in June I also had an opportunity to observe part of a Year 3 Maths lesson with Miss Brayfield, and it was great to see the children so enthusiastically engaged as they rehearsed what they had previously learned about adding fractions, before moving on to learn how to subtract them.