

Mandeville Primary School

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

■ Welcome back to Mandeville School and Happy New Year to you all! 2023 will be an incredibly exciting year for our school because it will be the first year that we start our expansion to 2-forms of entry (i.e. 2 classes per year group).

We hope to welcome 2 Reception classes in September 2023. In order to accommodate the new form of entry, this is the year that we will also be given the new school building, which is being constructed as we speak.

I am sure you have seen our contractors, Apex, at the entrance to the school site. They are working hard to make the necessary changes to ensure our school is big enough to keep up with local demand for school places.

If you'd like a bit of information about the expansion, there is a 'School Expansion' tab on the school website, and Apex have kindly put up a wooden notice board with some information on the path leading to the entrance to the school.

Behind the scenes, Governors are working hard to ensure the expansion project is running smoothly, as well as ensuring the quality of education, safeguarding, school finances and other important areas are maintained at the high level that we have come to expect from our school.

We have some changes to the governing body members coming soon. There are some new governors joining our board, so watch this space!



Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Visit

■ Every term, we are visited by a 'Hertfordshire Improvement Partner' from HFL Education, who provides professional challenge to schools.

Last term, the visit took place in October and focused on a review of the quality of provision in the Early Years.

It included a meeting with Mrs Whisker (Early Years Leader) to review the curriculum, as well as lesson visits focusing on phonics, reading, maths and child-initiated learning.

A number of overall strengths were identified, including:

- Rationale and depth behind the Early Years curriculum
- Precision mapping in the curriculum
- Strong curriculum implementation
- Clarity in terms of phonics provision
- Precise use of assessment
- Sustained pupil engagement and

concentration

- Valuable connection to the real world, making learning contextualised and meaningful
- Highly positive pupil behaviour for learning
- Strong support for personal, social and emotional development

The visit was extremely valuable and served to evidence the excellent provision within our Early Years.

It also supported our

ongoing self-evaluation practices.



Miss Hales
Headteacher

Meet the Governor

Alison Walters

Member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for RE and Art and Design.

Throughout my life I have been given the opportunity to have a good education.

Education is extremely important because it gives pupils the academic, practical and creative mindset to actively engage with others within society, and to understand the world better.

I have lived in Sawbridgeworth for the past 14 years, and had felt that it was my moral

duty to become more involved in the local community. I wanted to take on a role that would make an impact, provide value, and to be seen as a role model to children and young people.

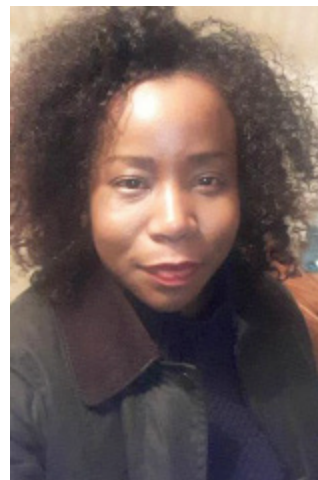
When the opportunity came up to be a school governor, I decided to take on the role in 2019.

I felt that my expertise from previous experiences working as mentor and coming

from an academic background was useful in challenging the school to provide the best education to the pupils - I wanted to make a visible impact. At present my link subjects are Religious Education (RE) and Art & Design.

I thoroughly enjoy the work that I do. My role allows me to speak and engage with the subject leaders and pupils, and helps me to better understand the

way how subjects are taught to its' pupils, and to act as that critical friend.



School Expansion Update

Sarah Lilly

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

We are excited to share further news about the expansion programme. You will have seen the changes to the site, as the building work for the new classroom block and Hall has started, and there is a notice board at the front of the school with information on the overall project. We are delighted to be working with Apex Contractors, who will be delivering the building works over the next months.

The School Expansion Team (SET) have been working with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and Apex to ensure that the new site will be of the best quality possible to deliver the excellent

education provision that all of us at Mandeville are proud of. As part of this vision, an exciting design for the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EFYS) outdoor area has been developed by Mrs Whisker (EYFS Leader) and her team, and this has now been agreed by governors, working with HCC.

Work on this aspect of the project will be completed over the summer holiday, ready for the arrival of the Nursery and Reception pupils in September 2023 and will provide a stimulating and fun learning space for our younger children.

As the Spring term progresses, we will see



the completion of the footings for the classroom block, and the framework of the building taking shape.

The SET continues to work together with Apex and HCC to bring this project to completion

and are grateful for your support in adapting to the changes across the site over this term.

While there is still much to do, the finished site will be a wonderful learning space and community hub.