

Mandeville Primary School

Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

■ Welcome back from what we hope was a lovely Easter break and bank holiday weekend.

With the Spring term over, we were able to reflect on everything that the school community achieved last term.

Governors were very pleased that the school was able to move out of the outbreak plan and return to offering the children

a variety of interesting experiences such as school trips, after school clubs and the vocabulary parade, which were provided alongside a full and varied curriculum.

We hope this newsletter provides you with a flavour of what the governors have been involved with during the term.

Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors



School Expansion

Sarah Lilly

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

■ **The Mandeville School Expansion Team are pleased to report that the planning application for the expansion of the school has finally been submitted.**

The plans include a new school hall, additional classrooms, a relocated kitchen, reorganisation of parts of our current building, and new entrance lobby, alongside the exciting intent of HCC to deliver this project as Net Zero Carbon. While the Team held active discussions with HCC regarding retention of the All Weather Pitch in the plans, unfortunately HCC could not afford this.

Naturally, governors and staff are disappointed, but are seeking all possible options to provide this facility moving forward.

The Team will continue to attend regular meetings with the multidisciplinary team from HCC as we now review the detailed plans, including those for the additional block. The building work is scheduled to start in July this year, and we are looking forward to updating you further in future Newsletters.

Teaching and Learning Adviser Visit

■ Throughout the year, we are visited by a 'Teaching and Learning Adviser' from 'Herts for Learning', who supports us with our curriculum development.

Our current focus is English and the latest visit took place on 21st March. It included a meeting with the subject leader, phonics/reading lesson observations, listening to children read and pupil interviews.

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

- Children reading well-matched books – and demonstrating a willingness to share/resilience.
- In class sessions, good subject knowledge evident, children working hard and engaged.
- Lovely manner between teachers and pupils across all sessions and authentic discussions of texts – good amounts of challenge offered.
- Children able to talk about the importance of reading and how the school has helped them to develop their reading.
- Children were able to give a range of purposes for reading and in this also demonstrated good understanding of ways by which they are developing their own independence as readers.
- School's work on vocabulary came through as something recognised by the children ('otherwise you are stuck with simple words').

- Children offered a diverse range of books in talking about their favourites and some made links to other books by the same author.

It really was wonderful to see our children's enjoyment of reading shine through.

Miss Hales
Head Teacher



Meet the Governor

Jo Broderick

Member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, Focus Link Governor for Pupil Premium and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for Science.



■ I joined the board of Governors earlier last year having lived in this area for much of my life. I went to primary and secondary school in Harlow and am still in touch with several of my school friends. My early school reports often

included “lively” and “chatterbox” and in school photos I was always the one with hair that looked like it needed taming - that hasn’t changed much!

I trained as a journalist at Harlow College (alongside Piers Morgan) before studying English and Politics at the University of York, then lived in London while working in government relations. We moved to Birchanger, a village outside Bishop’s Stortford, just after my eldest son’s first birthday (he’s now 25) and I worked

freelance from home.

My two sons and daughter are similar but also very different and our house has always been full of lively discussions.

I moved to my current home in Sawbridgeworth in September 2018 and have spent the time since renovating it from its original 1960s state: as a child my favourite show was Blue Peter, and I think I have never really grown out of it; the projects are just on a bigger scale!

I enjoy anything craft related including sewing,

upholstery and painting as well as photography and travel.

I hope to be able to spend more time in school as Covid allows. I’ve been so impressed with what I have experienced so far.

I was lucky to have some amazing teachers who definitely made a huge difference to my time at school and my enjoyment of learning and the team at Mandeville already remind me very much of that.

The Vocabulary Parade

Amanda Taylor

Member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for History and Computing.



■ I was fortunate to attend the vocabulary parade this year and it was thoroughly impressive. As a parent to a Mandeville student, it’s great to see it from both sides – the parent view of coming up with a word together and how to portray it in costume, and as a governor seeing all the pupils together and the organisation that goes in to it behind the scenes.

Vocabulary day is our way of taking part in World Book Day and I love how our school does it differently. Pupils choosing and learning a new word rather than just picking a character from a book. The costumes can be as elaborate or as simple as the pupil (or parent!) want to make it. It was lovely to see so many different and unusual words, I certainly learnt a few new ones, but also familiar words and the fun way they were brought to life in costume.

The playground in the morning was full of laughter and fun checking out what words their friends had chosen. The parade was not just for the pupils, the teachers were all dressed up and taking

part also. Each class got to strut their stuff around the hall showing off their word and costumes to the rest of the school. The winners were not necessarily the ones who had the most complicated words or the most elaborate costumes, but they did all have interesting words and

costumes that expressed them brilliantly.

A huge well done to teachers who organised it, the pupils for taking on the challenge and having fun with it, and to all the parents who got crafty to help make the costumes.

